WASHTENAW

JEWISH NEWS

April 2008 Adar II/Nisan 5768 Volume XXXII: Number 7 FREE

Sustainability and Religion panel inspired by Dalai Lama visit

Tim Grimes, special to the WJN

Rabbi Robert Levy will be one of four local religious/community leaders in a panel discussion at the Downtown Library on Saturday afternoon, April 12. The discussion, entitled "Sustainability and Religion: Natural Partners or Uneasy Acquaintances," is being held in conjunction with the Earth Day/Sustainability lecture at Crisler Arena by the Dalai Lama on April 19-20. By focusing on the connections between sustainability and religion, the four panelists/community leaders will bring their extensive experiences and knowledge of Judaism, Buddhism, Roman Catholicism, and Protestantism to examine the threats and opportunities of unsustainability and sustainability.

The distinguished panel will be moderated by Professor James Crowfoot of the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment. Professor Crowfoot brings his own experiences of teaching about these topics and practical involvements in change making to seek greater sustainability.

In addition to Rabbi Levy, panel members include Dr. Rolf Bouma, pastor of the Center for Faith and Scholarship/Campus Chapel (Christian Reformed) in Ann Arbor; Sr. Paula Cathcart, Immaculate Heart of Mary/IHM and former member of the IHM Leadership Council in Monroe; and Gelek Rimpoche of the Jewel Heart Tibetan Educational Center in Pittsfield Township.

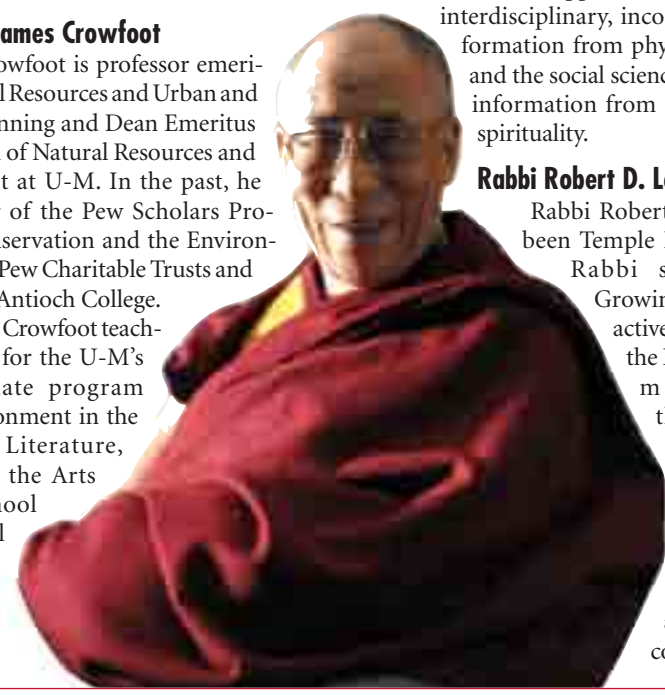
Their interfaith dialog provides an opportunity to learn about what religions are doing and can do to address the threats of increasing environmental degradation, social violence, and growing economic inequities and other negative impacts of the industrial growth system.

Moderator James Crowfoot

James Crowfoot is professor emeritus of Natural Resources and Urban and Regional Planning and Dean Emeritus of the School of Natural Resources and Environment at U-M. In the past, he was director of the Pew Scholars Program in Conservation and the Environment for the Pew Charitable Trusts and President of Antioch College.

Currently Crowfoot teaches part time for the U-M's undergraduate program in the Environment in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts and the School of Natural Resources and Environment. He is also a faculty member of the Michigan Community Scholars Program.

Crowfoot's teaching focuses on the emerging global crisis of unsustainability—environmentally, socially, and economically and examples of the variety of changes being made in different localities to attempt to reduce this crisis. His approach to this topic is interdisciplinary, incorporating information from physical, natural and the social sciences along with information from religions and spirituality.



Rabbi Robert D. Levy

Rabbi Robert D. Levy has been Temple Beth Emeth's Rabbi since 1984. Growing up, he was actively involved in the Reform youth movement; then he went to Israel for a year and worked on a kibbutz between high school and starting college.

Rabbi Levy received a B.A. in Biblical Studies from Boston University where he was Magna Cum Laude. He received his masters of Hebrew Letters in 1977 and rabbinical ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. At that time, he was the Temple Emanuel City of New York Scholar. In 2004, he received his Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Hebrew Union College.

Rabbi Levy serves as chaplain at the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Medical Center and is on the Human Subjects Subcommittee. During his sabbatical in 1995, he served as the non-sectarian chaplain assigned to HIV positive patients. Rabbi Levy has conducted research on the effects of spiritual counseling on cancer patients. He currently works closely with Ann Arbor's Domestic Violence Project Safe House. He also regularly leads trips to Israel. In addition to his rabbinical duties, Rabbi Levy enjoys athletics, cooking, traveling and riding his bike.

Dr. Rolf Bouma

Rolf Bouma is the director of the Center for Faith and Scholarship, a Christian study center located in Ann Arbor at the Univer-

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Passover program features Julie Silver

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center will host a Spring Passover program and concert featuring nationally known singer Julie Silver on Sunday, April 13, beginning at 4 p.m. The evening will include the concert, Passover crafts and activities, PJ Library story telling and dinner. The Matzah Factory will also be on hand at this event. The cost is $8 per person or $30 per family. This program is sponsored by the Benard L. Maas Foundation, the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County and the PJ Library Program of the Jewish Federation.Julie Silver is an accomplished and lyrical guitar player and one of the Jewish community's most popular folk singer and songwriters. Few performers engage audiences as quickly or with as much warmth and soul. Her audiences predictably respond not only to her pure and expressive voice, but also to her brilliant guitar work and her extraordinary professionalism. Silver's style is diverse: introspective and engaging, uplifting and charming. Her music touches people with its beauty and simplicity. ■

Julie Silver

For more information or to RSVP, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

JCC Jewish Film Festival returns to Michigan Theater May 11

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County, in association with the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit and the Michigan Theater, will bring the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival to Ann Arbor for its seventh year. The festival will showcase 14 films over five days at the Michigan Theater on East Liberty from Sunday, May 11 through Thursday, May 15.

Festival highlights include the opening night film, **Making Trouble: Three Generations of Funny Jewish Women** a documentary which explores six legendary American Jewish women comics including Gilda Radner. In honor of Mother's Day, A Celebration

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Dali Lama *continued from page 1*

sity of Michigan. He received his Ph.D. from Boston University in the field of Systematic Theology. In addition to thesis work on biotechnology and a theology of nature, he also has been extensively involved in science and religion dialogue.

In 2003, Dr. Bouma was appointed as lecturer in environmental ethics as part of the U-M's Program in the Environment. He also teaches theology at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. Each January, he joins the staff of the Au Sable Institute to teach environmental ethics at the ASI Great Lakes campus. This past year he was co-president of the Association of Religious Counselors at the U-M and also serves on the steering committee of the Life Sciences and Society program.

Sister Paula Cathcart

Sister Paula Cathcart is a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, Michigan. She has directed her energy to the mission of the community—by working with others to eradicate the causes of injustice and oppression and by helping create structures that will promote justice and peace and bring unity among all peoples. Sister Cathcart has years of experience in both elementary and secondary education as teacher, principal and counselor. She served as education/job training coordinator at Freedom House, a not-for-profit organization that provides comprehensive services to asylum seekers.

In addition, Sister Cathcart served in elected leadership for the IHM Congregation. In this capacity she initiated and oversaw an integrated long-range master plan and process for the 278 acre motherhouse campus. This resulted in the communal decision of an "Integrating Idea" that saw the entire campus as a center for the transformation of consciousness and identified sustainability as the overarching construct for decisions regarding their long range plan. Implementation began with the sustainable renovation of the 375,000 square foot Motherhouse.

Gelek Rimpoche

Born in 1939 in Lhasa, Tibet, Gelek Rimpoche has played a crucial role in the survival and transmission of traditional Tibetan Buddhism. Recognizing the unique opportunity for the interface of spiritual and material concerns in today's world, Rimpoche has also opened a dialogue with science, psychology, medicine, metaphysics, politics, and the arts.

Mentored by some of Tibet's greatest Buddhist masters, Rimpoche is among the last generation of Tibetan Lamas fully trained in 'Old Tibet', pre-1959. An example of kindness, generosity, good humor, and inspirational insight, Rimpoche is particularly distinguished for his familiarity with contemporary culture, and his special effectiveness as a teacher of Western practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism.

Rimpoche established his first Western teaching center in the Netherlands in 1985. In 1988, Jewel Heart was founded as a non-profit organization in Ann Arbor, with chapters and study groups throughout the U.S., in Malaysia/Singapore and the Netherlands. Affiliated with Nyare Khamsten of Drepung, Jewel Heart carries on the living tradition of Tibetan Buddhism in the West, with a particular emphasis on the lineage of Je Tsong Khapa.

Rimpoche is an internationally recognized spiritual teacher and bestselling author of *Good Life, Good Death* and *The Tara Box: Rituals for Healing and Protection from the Female Buddha*, as well as over 30 teaching transcripts.

Sustainable development

The United Nations Brundtland Commission, led by the former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Bruntland, defined sustainability or sustainable development as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Awareness is now growing that unsustainability—environmentally, socially, and economically—is a threat to the future of human civilization.

Religions and spirituality, along with science and other sources of knowledge and wisdom, can aid understanding what is happening in our communities and world and why certain changes are necessary to achieve sustainability. The conversations presented by these panel members will illustrate how we can help our communities and organizations change.■

The panel discussion will occur on Saturday, April 12, from 3–4:30 p.m. in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room. The Downtown Library is located at 343 S. Fifth Avenue. For more information, call the Library at 327-4560.

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The deadline for the May *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Monday, April 7.
Publication date: April 29.

Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

JCC Endowment Fund kickoff dinner honors Sharon and Chuck Newman

Nancy Margolis, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will host a gala honoring Sharon and Chuck Newman for their vision, leadership, and courage as the Founders of the JCC on Thursday, June 5 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel. Funds raised will launch the JCC Endowment Fund for the Future.

Twenty plus years ago, Sharon and Chuck Newman had a vision. While on a mission to Israel, they heard about a small community which had a Jewish Community Center. They invited a select few, "The Breakfast Club," to meet regularly to explore the concept of having a Jewish Community Center in Ann Arbor.

Chuck and Sharon Newman

Sharon and Chuck generated an enormous amount of excitement and energy and they personally took a financial risk to make it happen. Serendipity always plays a role. The Jewish nursery school needed to find a home, so the Newmans rented a building and the JCC was born. When an elementary school building became available to buy, once again the Newmans seized the opportunity and the fledgling Jewish Community Center bought the school. Sharon and Chuck continually and selflessly gave the community the inspiration, the leadership and the courage to build a vibrant Jewish Community Center and to make it what it is today.

Despite some naysayers, the Newmans kept the courage of their convictions: the minutes of the first community wide meeting to envision a JCC, read "Chuck stated firmly and definitively 'We are not gathered to decide IF there will be a JCC, but rather what the JCC will look like.'" He and Sharon organized the first board of directors; Chuck served as its second president. Sharon was secretary and treasurer—keeping the financial records in a three-ring notebook. Sharon single-handedly built the JCC Maccabi program—one lasagna at a time.

The JCC is only one part of their multi-faceted generosity. Chuck and Sharon were among the founding members of Temple Beth Emeth. Recently Chuck co-founded the Michigan Israel Business Bridge to promote economic development between Michigan and Israel. Chuck is a past chairman of the board of directors of National Hillel, the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life and was president of the Michigan Jewish Conference. He is also the founder, chief executive officer and president of ReCellular Inc., the world's largest collector and reseller of cellular phones.

Sharon has been heavily committed to active participation in Jewish communal life since high school where she was involved with the JCC and the B'nai B'rith Girls organization in Detroit.

Not only heading the local Maccabi delegation for 10 years and leading them to win many gold medals, Sharon also served on the National Maccabi Board for years. As a founding member of Temple Beth Emeth, Sharon served TBE as a member of its board of directors, its first Sisterhood president, and editor of the monthly bulletin.

Chuck and Sharon have four children and five grandchildren. Their dream—*l'dor v' dor* (generation to generation) has come true. Four generations of Newmans have graced the halls of the JCC: in the early years, Chuck's mother Dorothy worked with the Senior program and today, young Newmans play in the preschool.

In honor of Sharon and Charles Newman, the Jewish Community Center is launching a JCC Fund for the Future—an endowment fund—a lasting legacy which will pay annual dividends for the Jewish Community Center. The monies raised from this gala dinner, from the Tribute Book and gifts pledged to the JCC Fund for the Future will form this endowment to ensure that the JCC and all of its inspiring programs and events will grow and thrive for generations to come. ■

For more information, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

Redbud Theatre to present Neil Simon's Broadway *Bound*

WJN staff writers

Family dynamics and the quest to succeed in show business are themes of Neil Simon's comedy *Broadway Bound*, to be presented by the Redbud Theatre April 24–27. This touching play about a Jewish family in Brighton Beach, New York set in the 1940s and won multiple awards, including two Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize. It was also named Best American Play of the 1980s by *Time Magazine*.

The story focuses on Eugene Jerome (Nathaniel Fremuth) and his older brother Stanley (Dave Barker), who desperately try to break into the world of professional comedy writing. Their big break comes with an offer by CBS to write a comedy sketch. But, while the brothers create the comic punch lines that will mean success or failure in the world of television comedy, they must cope with the deteriorating marriage of their hard-working mother (Lenore Ferber) and their father (Tim Grimes), who holds a secret that may jeopardize the entire family. David Keren plays the elderly grandfather and Kyle Marie is a wealthy but unhappy aunt in Redbud's version of this famous comedy.

Broadway Bound will be shown Thursday, April 24 through Sunday, April 27, at the Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. Evening performances (Thursday–Saturday) are at 8 p.m. and the Sunday matinee starts at 2 p.m. Tickets are $18 for adults; $15 for students and seniors. Group rates are available, as well as discounts for pre-show dining at Haabs Restaurant. For more information, visit redbudproductions.com. To reserve tickets, call Redbud Productions at 663-7167.

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14 FILMS IN 5 DAYS!

Opening Night Mother's Day Celebration Sunday, May 11, 7:00 p.m. and Film 8:00 p.m.
Sponsor Reception Thursday, May 15, 6:30 p.m.

Individual tickets & Festival passes available at the JCC: 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor or 734-971-0990

Adult programs at the JCC

JFS Caregiver Conversations

Jewish Family Services convenes "Caregiver Conversations," a monthly drop-in educational and support group for adult children in a variety of caregiving roles for their aging parents. "Caregiver Conversations" is part of the new JFS Caregiver Concierge program funded by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County. Co-sponsored by the JCC, Reconstructionist Havurah, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, and the Jewish Cultural Society.

On Thursday, April 17, 6:30–8 p.m., the topic will be "Dealing with Depression in Your Aging Parent." Depression is one of the most common issues facing older adults and can impact your relationship with your aging parent in multiple ways. What can you do when a parent is depressed? Hear from Diane Griffith, LMSW, ACSW, clinical social worker at the U-M Health System, about depression in older adults and share concerns and coping mechanisms with others. This free program will be held at the JCC. RSVP by April 10.

Grandparent University

An education-and-discussion group for Jewish grandparents, co-sponsored by Jewish Family Services and the JCC. On Thursday, April 24 from 2:30–4:30 p.m. (note the later time), at the JCC, the topics will be "Grandparents as Spiritual Guides" and "Grand Finale—a Celebration of a Year of Grandparent University!" Guest speakers will be Rabbi Robert Levy and Rabbi Robert Dobrusin.

Grandparents serve not only as a caretakers, playmates, friends, and mentors to grandchild(ren), but also as spiritual guides. Come learn about what this role entails and how to best ensure that your grandchildren inherit spiritual values that are meaningful. Plus, celebrate the last session of this year's Grandparent University. Bring a photo of your grandchild(ren) for a fun activity (make sure you are not in the photo). The cost is $5 to drop-in.

Family history scrapbooking series

Have you resolved to get organized? Have precious old family photos been relegated to boxes or crumbling albums? Join scrapbooking specialist Michelle Smith to learn how to explore and document your family's history through unique and artful scrapbook pages, Sunday mornings, April 6 and 13, from 10 a.m.–noon at the JCC.

The $40 fee includes scrapbooking paper, stickers, and the use of tools during class time; you supply your own blank 12x12 album and family photos.

At the end of the two week series, participants will have completed at least 10 scrapbook pages to save for posterity. There is a minimum of 10 participants rquired.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Abbie at 769-0209.

Older Adults: SPICE* of Life

Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational Programs for Adults

Tuesdays

11 a.m. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar (note new time!), $4, or 3 for $10

10 a.m. –Noon. The Bible in its Time: Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East with Lisbeth Fried, Ph.D.

Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3

1 p.m. Games and Activities. A variety of games and activities to enjoy, including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker.

1:30 p.m. Yiddish Speaking Group, at the U-M Michigan League. Call 761-2765 for more information.

Thursdays

10 a.m. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, $4, or 3 for $10

11 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. A Jewish perspective on this week's news

Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3

1 p.m. Thursday Special Events and Presentations, (see below for details)

2:15 p.m. Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky

Fridays

1:30 p.m. Yiddish Reading Group. Call Ray Juni for location at 761-2765

Thursday special events and presentations

April 3: 12:30 p.m.

Birthday Celebration for all with April birthdays. Bring your family. Cake and ice cream.

April 3: 1 p.m.

Musical Guests: Winter. Winter will perform for the seniors and a small number of students from JCC.

April 10: 1 p.m.

Yiddish Open House. Zvi Gitelman will read a Yiddish story by I.L. Peretz and engage the audience in a discussion.

April 17: 1 p.m.

Jewish Star paper-weaving class. Create a simple weaving project that will end up in a card or bookmark.

April 24: 1 p.m.

Passover concert with Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits and Rabbi Robert Dobrusin. Passover Celebration featuring "Songs from the Haggadah – New Music for Pesach." A performance of new melodies for familiar songs from the Haggadah. RSVP to Abbie at 769-0209.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, April 16:

A2SO Afternoon Delights (formerly Matinee Musicale)

The A2SO's Music Director Arie Lipsky on cello, Aaron Berfosky, Kathryn Votapek, and guest violinist Yehonatan Berick at1:30 p.m. with dessert and socializing; 2 p.m. concert.

Wednesday, April 23

Senior Seder. A traditional community seder for all older adults and their families, with Rabbi Robert Levy and Cantor Annie Rose from Temple Beth Emeth. Enjoy a catered Passover meal, music, and thought-provoking discussion of the ways in which Passover themes are uniquely relevant to the lives of older adults. 5–7:30 p.m. at the JCC. Cost is $20. RSVP by April 14 to abbie@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209.

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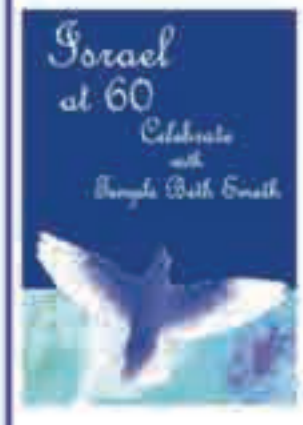

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JCC Film Festival *continued from page 1*

of Mom's will take place opening night with a dessert reception and will be admitted free to the film.

The festival will also feature four Israeli films in honor of the 60th birthday of the state of Israel, including **Knowledge is the Beginning**, the story of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, where young Arabs and Jews perform music and live side by side. In **Someone to Run With**, a boy tries to track down the owner of a missing dog, and begins to piece together the incredible story of the owner's disappearance. **Six Days** is a documentary that uses arresting archival footage to examine how the war in 1967 remade the Middle East. **David Rubinger: Eye Witness** is a film of the photographer journeying back to the places and people he photographed in Israel, and how he leads viewers to a better understanding of the contemporary Israeli reality. After the film, David Rubinger will be on hand to lead an open discussion on Israel, photography and other matters.

The Festival will close with a showing of **Nina's Home**, 2008 Winner of the Sarah and Harold Gottlieb Award for Contributions to Jewish Culture. The Sponsor Reception will take place preceding the film at 6:30 p.m. at the Michigan Theater.

The Ann Arbor Festival is made possible thanks to the Charles and Rita Gelman Educational Foundation, the Michael and Patricia Levine Philanthropic Fund, and the Michigan Theater. Ann Arbor chairs are Levana Aronson, Rachel Seel, and Roberta Tankanow. The festival will also take place in Commerce Township, Birmingham, Windsor and Flint. The full schedule is listed on the JCC web site at www.jccannarbor.org.

Tickets to each film are $10; a festival pass, good for all 14 Ann Arbor films, is available for $65. Tax deductible sponsorship opportunities are also available with a $360 donation or more. For more information, call the JCC at 971-0990.

Sunday, May 11, 8 p.m.

Making Trouble: Three Generations of Funny Jewish Women

This documentary explores six legendary American Jewish women comics. Director Ra-

chel Talbot has created a tribute to Molly Picon, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Joan Rivers, Wendy Wasserstein and Gilda Radner, whose comedy styles defied cultural expectations and changed all the rules. The film includes an exhilarating mix of contemporary performance, interviews and rare archival footage.

Making Trouble spans more than a century of theater, television and film history. Here are three generations that went from Vaudeville and the Yiddish Theater to Broadway and from Ziegfeld's Follies to *Saturday Night Live*. In a scene taken right from *Broadway Danny Rose*, comediennes Judy Gold, Jackie Hoffman, Cory Kahaney and Jessica Kirson guide us through the lives of these amazing and talented women.

Sponsored by Patricia and Michael Levine.

Monday, May 12, 2 p.m.

Knowledge is the Beginning

A Celebrate Israel at 60 Feature Film

This is multiple award-winning film is the story of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, where young Arabs and Jews perform and live

side by side. It is a film about what music can do; the way it can transcend cultural and political barriers, bring people together, defeat prejudice and overcome religious differences. For founding conductor Daniel Barenboim and the late Edward Said, this orchestra is a symbol of what can be achieved in the Middle East.

Comprising 80 Arab and Israeli musicians ages 13 to 26, the film chronicles five summer workshops in Weimar and Seville as well as Barenboim's visit to Jerusalem in May and the Divan Orchestra's sensational concert in Ramallah in August, 2005.

Monday, May 12, 5 p.m.

Sketches of Frank Gehry

"If you are a complete layman and not an architectural specialist, what's so wonderful about Frank Gehry? What is all the fuss about?" This is the question director Sydney Pollack puts forth and attempts to answer in his first documentary feature that spans five years of the architect's

illustrious career.

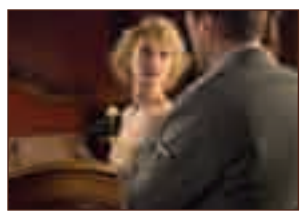
Frank Gehry loves to sketch; it is the beginning of his architectural process. Beginning with Gehry's original sketches for each project, the film explores Gehry's progression of turning these abstract drawings into, tangible, three-dimensional masterpieces of the modern age.

Monday, May 12, 8 p.m.

Black Book

This film, from his native Netherlands, is director Paul Verhoeven (Basic Instinct, RoboCop) first film in 20 years. Set during the end of WWII, ***Black Book*** is the story of a Dutch Jewish girl who narrowly survives the war in Holland. She joins the resistance to find out who betrayed her family, after all of them were killed in an attempt to reach the liberated south.

The final years of World War II find Rachel Stein, once a famous singer, taking refuge with a family in rural Holland. When this safe house is bombed by Allied Forces, Rachel is forced to flee and put herself into the hands of a sympathetic lawyer who has helped Jews escape to Al-



lied territory. He reluctantly agrees to help her escape and adds her name and rendezvous point in a little black notebook. During the dangerous journey, the group is ambushed by German troops and all are killed except for Rachel who is able to escape and join the Dutch Resistance. In this story of love and betrayal, Rachel searches for the truth and attempts to right past wrongs during this turbulent time in history.

Although this exciting film caused a great deal of controversy, it has risen in popularity and has gained wide acceptance.

Tuesday, May 13, 2 p.m.

Steal a Pencil for Me

This compelling documentary feature by Oscar-nominee Michèle Ohayon is about the power of love and the ability of humankind to rise above unimaginable suffering.

With Holland under Nazi occupation, Jack meets Ina, a 20-year-old beauty from a wealthy diamond manufacturing family who instantly steals his heart. But Jack is poor and already married to Manja, a flirtatious and mercurial spouse. When the Jews are deported, the husband, the wife and the lover find themselves at

the same concentration camp; actually living in the same barracks. Despite Manja's objection to their relationship, Jack and Ina resort to writing secret love letters that sustain them throughout the horrible circumstances of the war.

Steal a Pencil for Me is the story of a six-decade-long love affair, a fairy tale born of amazing deprivation. You have never seen anything like it.

Tuesday, May 13, 5 p.m.

I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal

This latest formidable Holocaust-related documentary looks at the man whose persistent, unflinching resolve led to the capture of 1,100 former Nazi officers. The work of Simon Wiesenthal is among the most heroic Jewish stories of the 20th (and 21st) century.

Despite the reductive title "Nazi hunter,"

Simon Wiesenthal left a legacy that included a worldwide human-rights organization. Along with archival footage, photos and interviews with friends, family and Wiesenthal himself, this harrowing portrait reflects his stubborn insistence that "A soldier does not leave the battlefield."

Narrated by Academy Award winning actress Nicole Kidman, the film features unseen archival footage and interviews with longtime Wiesenthal associates, government leaders from around the world, friends and family members, many of whom have never discussed the legendary Nazi hunter and humanitarian on camera.

Tuesday, May 13, 8 p.m.

Someone to Run With

A Celebrate Israel at 60 Feature Film

Based on the best-selling novel by David Grossman, this much-honored film captures the unrelenting pace, suspense and heartfelt drama of the original material that sends us on a riveting ride through the streets of Jerusalem.

Assaf, a shy, awkward 17 year-old is yanked from his boring summer job and given the impossible task of tracking down the owner of a Labrador retriever found wandering the streets. As he follows the dog, Assaf begins to piece together the incredible story of the owner's disappearance, a story that captures his imagination and pulls him in; the story of a girl named Tamar.

One month earlier, Tamar, a gifted musician, embarks on a desperate journey into Jerusalem's seedy underworld and becomes ensnared in its

clutches. Assaf, smitten by this mysterious girl he has never met, feels he has no choice but to run in her footsteps. The film follows Assaf and Tamar on parallel timelines, highlighting the distance between them and the loneliness they endure until finally the two narratives converge. For Tamar and Assaf, the experience is an accelerated journey into adulthood, a test of courage and commitment, and a story of self-discovery and first love.

The film is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County and Keshet

Wednesday, May 14, 2 p.m.

A Good Uplift

The Festival first featured this short documentary by filmmaker Faye Lederman in 2006 and it has been a Festival favorite ever since. So here it is for an encore appearance!

The movie pays homage to Magda Bernstein, the owner of a mom-and-pop lingerie shop on New York's Lower East Side. For 33 years, she has been sizing up and dressing women in underwear that makes them feel beautiful, inside and out. The dressing-room moments are sweet—and the length is a

perfect fit. As critic Molly Priesmeyer said, "Any more would feel like too much...uh, padding."

The Powder and the Glory

Directors Ann Carol Grossman and Arnie Reisman reveal the personalities behind the "makeup" of archrivals Helena Rubinstein and Elizabeth Arden, two amazing women who dared to create an industry in a man's world—at a time when only performers and prostitutes wore cosmetics.

Starting with nothing, the two women founded—and then reinvented—the $150 billion global health and beauty industry. That Madame Rubinstein chose to keep her Jewish

name makes her triumph all the more remarkable.

On the surface, it's a story of how two pioneering, entrepreneurial women created an industry; at an even deeper level, it is about the sea change in society that made women full partners in the American dream.

This film is sponsored by the Ann Arbor Chapter, ORT America and the ORT Cinema Club.

Wednesday, May 14, 5 p.m.

David Rubinger: Eye Witness

A Celebrate Israel at 60 Feature Film

This film is Israel as seen through the eyes of David Rubinger, the laureate of the Israeli Prize for Photography and an internationally prominent photographer.

Rubinger began photographing in 1947, and since then he has documented famous leaders and exciting characters. He has been an eyewitness to the dramatic events that took place in Israel throughout the years.

In the film, Rubinger journeys back to the places and people he photographed and leads viewers to a better understanding of the contemporary Israeli reality. Rubinger's pictures represent his own life story, professional views and experiences, but mainly his great love for the country and its people.

After the film, David Rubinger will be on hand to lead an open discussion on Israel, photography and other matters.

This film is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County.

Wednesday, May 14, 8 p.m.

Brother's Shadow

Jake Groden is the black sheep of his family. Ankle-deep in fish guts, the ex-con is serving out his parole in Alaska. Then, after a decade of self-imposed exile, he is forced to return to his family in Brooklyn to find that his "perfect" twin brother, Michael has died. Welcomed with disdain by his father and with reluctance by his brother's widow, Jake attempts to save the family business, Groden Custom Furniture. He also takes his nephew, Adam, who is fascinated by the mysterious look-alike uncle he never knew existed, under his wing.

Jake, a brilliant craftsman with a radical sense of design throws himself into reviving the family business. But his designs prove too eccentric for his brother's clientele. To secure an enormous order he is forced into the unthinkable; he adopts his brother's identity.

The actors deliver strong performances and director Todd Yellin's steady hand behind the camera, with an original score by Duncan Sheik, whose Broadway musical Spring Awakening recently won eight Tony awards, make this one terrific film.

This film is sponsored by Irwin and Fran Martin.

Thursday, May 15, 2 p.m.

Six Days

A Celebrate Israel at 60 Feature Film

In time for Israel's 60th anniversary comes this new documentary that uses arresting archival footage to examine how the war in 1967 remade the Middle East.

The shooting lasted on six tense days in June 1967, but the Six Day War has never really ended. Every crisis that has ripped through this region in the ensuing decades stems from those six fateful days. This look at Israel's victory is a tense, taut diary of a high-stakes military chess game.

Beginning with the buildup to the war and the political and military maneuvering of Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Egyptian President Jame Adel Nasser, the film takes us through the six days of fighting, the war with Jordan, the occupation of the West Bank and the annexation of Jerusalem. Featuring stunning archival footage and first-hand accounts of the war from both the Israeli and Arab soldiers who fought it, *Six Days* explores how these events became the flash point in history that reshaped the regional political landscape, destroyed old systems and brought new forces to the surface. Rarely in modern times has so short and localized a conflict had such profound global consequences.

Thursday, May 15, 5 p.m.

Praying with Lior

An engrossing, wrenching and tender documentary film, *Praying with Lior* introduces Lior Liebling, also called "the little rebbe." Lior has Down syndrome, and has spent his entire life praying with utter abandon. Is he a "spiritual genius" as many around him say? Or simply the vessel that contains everyone's unfulfilled wishes and expectations?

Lior – whose name means "my light"—lost his mother at age six, and her words and spirit hover over the film. While everyone agrees Lior is closer to God, he's also a burden, a best friend, an inspiration, and an embarrassment, depending on which family member is speaking. As Lior approaches Bar Mitzvah, the Jewish coming-of-age ceremony different characters provides a window into life spent "praying with Lior."

The movie poses difficult questions such as what is "disability" and who really talks to God? Told with intimacy and humor, Praying with Lior is a family story, a triumph story, a grief story, a divinely-inspired story.

Thursday, May 15, 8 p.m.

Nina's Home

2008 Winner of the Sarah and Harold Gottlieb Award for Contributions to Jewish Culture

Toward the end of World War II, the French government found several large locations to house Jewish children who had hidden successfully during the Occupation as well as children who survived the camps that were sent to these homes after liberation. Life at one of these halfway houses is portrayed in this cinematic masterwork from the late Oscar-winning writer/director Richard Dembo (Winner Best Foreign Film, 1984, *La Diagonale du Fou*).

Nina's Home stars Tunisian Jewish actress, Agnès Jaoui as the director of one of these "houses of hope". With a blend of discipline and maternal affection, Nina guides her charges, but this delicate balance is thrown into chaos when survivors from Eastern European concentration camps arrive with new and often unmanageable traumas. They are a disparate, wild, damaged group, and conflicts occur between the secular French Jews and the survivors who feel obliged to practice the faith of their exterminated families. We see the psychological and practical difficulties of providing shelter, security, food and love as the children adjust to a world emerging from madness.

This startling motion picture is based on an amalgamation of true stories. As the children of *Nina's Home* recreate themselves from the shadows, we sense that hope and life will prevail.

This film is sponsored by the Charles and Rita Gelman Educational Foundation. ■

Making a difference: EMU Hillel students help rebuild New Orleans

Stacie Roseman, special to the WJN

"I am coming home. I will rebuild. I am New Orleans." This phrase, found on a single sign amongst a community of ruble rang true in the hearts of seven students from Hillel at Eastern Michigan University who traveled to New Orleans on an alternative spring break the week of February 24 through March 2. We worked with the non-profit organizations Jewish Funds for Justice, a public foundation dedicated to creating a just, fair, and compassionate America, and Rebuilding Together, a national organization that helps to restore houses for the disabled and the elderly. We spent the week painting the exterior of a house for an 89-year-old woman who has spent the last two and a half years living in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer.

"Working on the same project all week helped us form a connection with New Orleans. We were able to see our progress as the week went on, and be really proud of our accomplishments," 20-year-old EMU sophomore Angela Bevak commented. "It makes me feel really good to know that an elderly woman is back in her house right now partially because of us."

The fact that we got a chance to talk to the homeowner helped us to focus our passion on the project. She graciously invited us into her trailer on our first day on the worksite, offering us food and a chance to hear her devastating story. During the storm, she climbed onto her kitchen countertop as the water began to rise, and was then later helped out by her neighbor with his boat. "Meeting the woman whose house we were working on and hearing her story really helped to make the project a personal experience," Stacey Oberman said. "I enjoyed listening to her stories as well as seeing the look of excitement on her face when her house was completed."

As for stories, the week was overflowing with many people's perspectives regarding what happened during Hurricane Katrina, and what has occurred in its aftermath. We had the opportunity to speak with representatives from different social justice organizations. We also heard the stories of ordinary New Orleans community members who lived through the storm. One group that left a lasting impression in our minds was a group of residents from the Lower Ninth Ward, the community that suffered through the worst of the flooding. They told us the story of their evacuation, how they lost their houses, their belongings, and their mementos of the past. But somehow, as they shared their tragic story with us, they were able to keep smiles on their faces. "When we talked with residents from the Lower Ninth Ward, it shocked me that they were laughing about the fact that they lost everything," stated 19-year-old EMU freshman Rachel Vergun.

But amidst the laughter remains a huge problem: The problem of devastation, the problem of spirits gone missing. Through Rebuilding Together, we were able to go on a tour of the Lower Ninth Ward, a chance to see with our own eyes the disaster that still lingers nearly three years after the storm. "Some things were really hard to look at," Stacie Goldberg said. "There were some points where I felt like I couldn't hold it together anymore, like I was going to break down." What we saw was a community laid in ruins. It looked like a ghost town. Houses that once held the lives and memories of so many people were either bulldozed completely or left in shambles. Most people who were once so spirited and passionate about their home in New Orleans were living in FEMA trailers at the side of the road, or were unable to return to the city at all. We were told by residents that if every tourist who drove through their neighborhood could give them just ten cents, they would have enough to rebuild their homes and restore their community. New Orleans needs our help, and it felt great to do what we could in the short week that we were there.

Hillel at EMU students with staff members from Hillel at EMU, Jewish Funds For Justice and Rebuilding Together New Orleans, in front of the New Orleans home they worked on all week

Not only did we make an impact on the city of New Orleans, but we were also able deepen our link within the Jewish community. "Offering students alternative break programs is an integral part of creating their Jewish identities and strengthening their connection with the Jewish community," said Audrey Bloomberg, the Program Director of Hillel at EMU. In the evenings, we participated in group discussions on broader topics of social justice and the Jewish value of "tzedek," or righteous behavior. There was also time for individual reflection, "chevurta" time (discussion in pairs), and group bonding activities.

We are just seven college students, but in a single week we were able to restore the spirit of an elderly woman, while learning about ourselves along the way. This experience was truly life changing. We pulled ourselves away from our comfort zones and challenged ourselves in ways we never thought we could, whether that meant climbing a 20 foot ladder or simply talking out our emotions. Michael Newmeyer, who counted this as his third Alternative Spring Break, said "Just how much hope, how much inspiration, and how much passion can I fit into a suitcase? There is no Band-Aid for the wounds we have seen here, but with love and compassion and dedication, maybe we can heal them." ■

Guitarist and singer songwriter Natalia Zuckerman to perform at The Ark

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

Natalia Zukerman is the daughter of Pinchas and Eugenia Zukerman. That fact alone, in some circles, would be enough to convince many people to give her music a listen. But, there are other, far more compelling reasons to check out this gifted guitarist and singer songwriter.

At her last appearance here, during her set in the Ann Arbor Folk Festival in January, someone shouted from the audience, "You're phenomenal!" It is an assessment that more and more people are likely to come to share.

I recently spoke by phone with Zukerman from her upstate New York home.

WJN: When you were a child, did you hear your parents practicing?

Zukerman: Yes, I listened to them practice all the time. There was always chamber music going on in the living room. It was incredible to hear arguably—actually (she laughs) unarguably—the best classical music that there is, right there in our living room.

In our house it was required to study an instrument, so I had violin lessons and later on classical guitar. It was a huge part of our lives. You had to do your homework, you had to make your bed, you had to do the dishes, and you had to practice your instrument.

It certainly taught me a lot. It helped my studying, my academics as well.

WJN: Your paternal grandfather played the clarinet in klezmer bands in Poland and then later in Israel. Did you know him?

Zukerman: He died when I was six months old, so unfortunately I didn't get to know him. But, apparently he had music coming out of every part of him. He could make music with anything. He'd play music on a comb and tissue paper. He taught my dad how to play clarinet as a kid. That was my dad's first instrument.

WJN: You started writing songs seriously after you got out of college. What did you study in college?

Zukerman: I took one semester of classical guitar at Oberlin and then switched over to the art department. I studied visual arts and art history. Painting primarily.

WJN: Did the guitar come first and the songwriting later?

Zukerman: I studied classical guitar in high school and I had this wonderful teacher who taught me songs by Suzanne Vega, Sean Coleman and Woody Guthrie as well as the classical repertoire that I was learning.

When I got to college I was taking classical guitar and starting to do a little bit of songwriting and it was actually my professor at Oberlin who said, "You know, I think maybe you're a songwriter." So the songwriting came much later than the guitar.

WJN: When did you know that what you're doing now, the music, is what you wanted to do?

Zukerman: You know, music was such a part of my life from… birth. It is a part of the fabric of who I am. I've always played music. Professionally, I didn't think I was going to do that. After college I moved up to the Bay area and worked in an art gallery, taught some art classes, drawing and painting, started my own mural painting company.

Natalia Zuckerman

I was writing songs, playing guitar. It sort of just happened a little bit by accident. (Laughs) I wrote enough songs to record an album, so I did that. I moved back to New York in 2001 and started meeting lots of other musicians and started playing at open mics. It wasn't until about four years ago that I quit my other job; I was teaching guitar, painting still, and started to give the singer songwriter world my full attention. It's still relatively new for me, but it seems to be the one that's sticking. The painting has taken a serious back burner, but it's something that I can always have.

WJN: I was, of course, familiar with your parents' work in music, but I didn't know that your mom was also a writer until I read that in your bio. Do you feel you got your lyric writing from her?

Zukerman: That's a really nice way to put it. I think my mom has been a huge influence on me in that she is so proficient at many different things. She's a writer; she works as the arts correspondent for *CBS Sunday Morning* and runs the Vail Valley Music Festival in the summers in Colorado. Just watching somebody have… she's got an incredible amount of discipline in terms of the way that she can utilize her time and her talents. She has so many talents. And it's not like she's a jack-of-all-trades and master of none. She's really a master of all of them. To get to see her put all her passions to work, it's just been a huge influence on me, especially as a woman in the arts. I think it's incredibly difficult to have a long-standing career and she's done that by pursing the things she's really passionate about.

I've always felt totally supported, pursuing visual art or music. I just started painting again recently and she's always so happy when she sees me doing that. She knows that it's a huge part of what I'm passionate about, so when I make time and incorporate that into my life, I know she's always really happy to see that.

I have two incredibly artistic parents, and my sister, Arianna is an opera singer, so to see their lives in the arts has had a huge effect on me.

WJN: Do you ever perform with your sister, or your parents?

Zukerman: I have performed a tiny bit with my sister. I play guitar and she sings—some standards, some Edith Piaf. It's great fun. Especially when she comes to my gigs and jumps up on stage to do a few with me. It's so great to hear opera in a bar or coffeehouse setting! She always gets such an incredible response. It's really fun for the audience and REALLY fun for me!

I haven't played with my mom or dad yet but I'd really like to. My mom did play on my first two records though, and it was such a special experience.

WJN: Who are some of the people who you've listened to, who are closer to your style of music?

Zukerman: I listened to Mississippi Fred McDowell, Bonnie Raitt, Rory Block, I just saw Michelle Malone for the first time—great slide player. My friend Anna Agge is playing great slide. There's a bunch of women who play slide, but I think I'm not… no, I don't think, I know I'm not playing blues. I definitely have the blues influence, but I use the slide a lot more like a small color. I'm not playing the standard…(here Natalia scat sang a typical blues riff) kind of thing. I have a few tunes that are like that, but the slide I incorporate into my style is more like a little flourish that I use here and there.

I sometimes get a little uncomfortable when people say I'm a slide guitar player because I don't consider myself worthy of that title, just yet.

WJN: I don't know about that, but I do agree that you don't use the slide in some of the conventional ways that I am familiar with. I read in the liner notes of your last recording that you recorded the whole album without doing overdubs, essentially "live," but on a number of the songs it sounds as though there is a rhythm guitar and also a lead slide guitar adding an extra voice.

Zukerman: One of the biggest compliments I've had recently, was someone talking about the same thing you are. I was in a guitar festival, and we performed Bob Dylan's live 1966 *Royal Albert Hall Concert* record from start to finish. Everyone was to find one song, and there was an incredible amount of amazing talent playing that night. I played "Fourth Time Around," the second song on that record. I got off stage—you couldn't see the performers from back stage—and Harry Manx, who was also playing that night said to me, "I really liked what you did with the song, really nice guitar work. Who was playing slide?"

I'm spending a little more time in the privacy of my own room, learning the more traditional styles, but when I concentrate on writing, that's not what comes out.

WJN: What do you see yourself doing ten years from now? Or do you think like that?

Zukerman: (Laughs) You know, things have been going pretty quickly for me. I decided to pursue this full time in 2004. I met the (Ann Arbor based) Fleming booking agency and got signed on their roster in 2005, and have really been working hard traveling around the country the last few years. I think my writing has improved, my performances have improved, I guess I hope to be making really good music. I don't know what kind. I'd love to be in a band. I'd love to have a band. I could do all sorts of different musical pursuits.

I'd also really like to find more time for the visual arts part of my life. So, hopefully I can drive around a little bit less. (Laughs) That would be great.

I hope to have a family… lots of things. I have a lot of hopes for ten years from now. We'll see.

WJN: You're coming to the Ark this month.

Zukerman: Yes, when I'm playing at the Ark, I will have my new record out, Brand New Frame. It's the first time I've worked with a producer. Willy Porter produced it and it's going out under his label, Weasel Records. I'm just really proud of this new record. The Ark show will be my CD release concert. I can't think of a better place to do that. The Ark, the Siglins, (Dave and Linda Siglin, longtime managers of the Ark) have been so supportive, And my booking agent, Jim Fleming is in Ann Arbor too, so it feels like home to me. ■

Natalia Zukerman appears at the Ark on Friday, April 18. For ticket information, call 761-1451.

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34 YEARS IN PRACTICE

JFS tackles hidden issue of youth in crisis

Lisa Keefauver and Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

We weren't expecting problems. When she turned 16, things began to fall apart." said a mother during an interview regarding the Youth in Crisis Network at Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County.

Marcy* was a typical grade school student—happy, friendly, sociable, sports-oriented, and a decent student. Her parents—members of the Jewish community—were a fairly typical Ann Arbor family.

As a teenager, Marcy began exhibiting defiant behavior at home, sneaking out of the house, smoking marijuana, and changing friends. She wasn't defiant at school, she just stopped participating, quit doing homework, and began skipping frequently.

Her mom confronted her and tempers flared. The desperate mother struggled to ask for help: "I felt ashamed and guilty. Plus, we live in a community that is so achievement-oriented; we live through our children's achievements. What does that mean then when your child isn't perfect? This caused conflict within my own family. I had very few friends that I would talk to about it. They were nice and they were a shoulder to cry on, but they didn't have answers."

Finally, the parents asked their pediatrician for advice, and that led them to a therapist. The family had to switch therapists until they found one that could engage Marcy—who resisted intervention.

Marcy participated in individual therapy for a while. The therapist recommended she go to a wilderness camp noting the growing family discord, amplified by Marcy's situation. The family situation was making it difficult for Marcy to make or maintain substantial changes. "The hardest day was the day the escorts (we hired) arrived to take our daughter away to the wilderness camp. I felt a sense of failure as a parent and deeply responsible for my daughter's situation," confessed Marcy's mom. "I also felt some hope and relief that we were doing something to help Marcy."

After seven weeks, the wilderness camp counselors reported progress, but they also recommended that Marcy attend a boarding school. Working with an educational consultant, the family selected a school on the East coast.

"We were frustrated that we could not find an appropriate wilderness camp or boarding school nearby," said Marcy's mother. Many camps and schools are located outside the Midwest, according to research by the JFS Youth in Crisis network. The lack of options is particularly acute for families who wish to find Jewish-based options or avoid placement in a Christian-based camp or school.

The school, although far away and very expensive, worked for Marcy and her family. Children at the school are encouraged to discover their own unique potential. Marcy was provided a safe environment to talk about and process some of the scary, tough individual and family issues she faced. There is also a strong focus on family education. Parents participate in two family weekends a year. Families also met within their region once a month for parent-to-parent support. "Each parent had a one-on-one weekend with their child once a year. Those weekends really helped me re-build my relationship with my daughter," said Marcy's mother.

What can you do if you find yourself with a child engaging in risky behavior? "If your kid is having issues at home, they will turn to their friends for support and inevitably engage in destructive behavior. You can't ground it away or punish it away," suggested Marcy's mother. "You have to address the underlying issues. Often, there is no way to do that when they are at home with you and at the schools that are often understaffed and unprepared to help."

"One of the most helpful messages we received from the counselors at the school is that if a 'child has issues, the family has issues,'" said Marcy's mother. "During this process, I came to accept that we needed help as a family; we weren't functioning as a family anymore."

Many parents have come to Jewish Family Services frustrated by the lack of local resources and desperate for something to do. Under the leadership of board member Barbara Stark-Nemon, the agency has developed the Youth in Crisis Referral and Resource Network with the support of the Benard L. Maas Foundation and other donors.

JFS convened a group of teachers, parents and professionals involved with youth to discuss this issue last March, with the goal of identifying specific needs and discussing ways to address them. Participants saw JFS as playing a unique role in bridging the gap between the community's well-established supports for economically or educationally "at risk" children and the youth from typical, middle class families who far too often fall through the cracks.

JFS invites community members to be involved in establishing the Youth in Crisis Referral and Resource Network and plan the second Youth in Crisis Conference planned for Friday, May 2. Interested community members should contact Lisa Keefauver at lisa@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209. ■

**Name of child has been changed to protect confidentiality. Lisa Keefauver is the new youth and family services program coordinator at Jewish Family Services.*

JCC participates in Bookstock at Laurel Park Place

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will take part in the 2008 Bookstock sale of used books and media from April 6–13 at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. The hours are Sundays from noon-6 p.m. and Monday–Saturday from 10 a.m.–9 p.m. There is a pre-sale that will take place Sunday, April 6 from 8:45–11:45 a.m. Admission to the pre-sale is $10. All proceeds will benefit education and literacy projects. Bookstock takes place in appreciation of Brandeis University National Women's Committee, Detroit Chapter. For more information, visit www.bookstock.info.

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Wishing you and yours a Happy Passover!
from the JEWISH NEWS

Shir HaShirim, the Song of Songs

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

During each of five important holidays of the Jewish year, we read from one of the five megillot, the five "scrolls" which are part of the Ketuvim, the Writings. On Pesach, we read from Shir HaShirim, the Song of Songs.

Song of Songs is arguably the most unlikely of biblical books. In fact, there is a rabbinic debate recorded in the Talmud about the inclusion of the book in the Tanach. While some apparently objected to its inclusion, it was no less a sage than Rabbi Akiva who said that Israel was never as fit as the day that the Song of Songs was revealed. For, Rabbi Akiva said, if the entire Bible is holy, the Song of Songs is the holy of holies.

What is the cause of this debate? Simply put, the Song of Songs is a detailed, graphic, passionate love poem. While some of the metaphors might not be clear to us or appeal to us, there is no misunderstanding the meaning of these metaphors: they speak of an intense, physical and intimate love.

The Song of Songs is a detailed, graphic, passionate love poem.

Why, then, did the book end up in the biblical canon? The first verse of the book identifies the author of the book as King Solomon. A beautiful Midrash claims that Solomon was the author of three biblical books at different stages in his life. The Song of Songs was written, says the Midrash, when he was a young man while Proverbs, the book of wisdom, was written when he was a middle-aged man; and Ecclesiastes, with its fatalistic attitudes, was written when he was an elderly man. But the notable authorship is only part of the reason for the holy status of Song of Songs. The rabbis claim that the book is a parable, speaking of the love between God and the people of Israel.

If that is the case, it is only one of many such representations. The prophet Ezekiel describes the entire story of the Exodus from Egypt and the sinning of the people in terms of a man finding a young woman in distress, cleaning her up, and taking her to be his wife only to see her become unfaithful. While we might be uncomfortable with this text from several different perspectives, at the same time, at its core, it presents a beautiful picture of the relationship of God and the people of Israel. This relationship is one of the foundations of Jewish faith.

There are other examples of such themes in Jewish literature including, for example, *Yedid Nefesh*, a beautiful hymn sung at the beginning of Shabbat evening services. This poem, too, describes our relationship with God in graphic, romantic terms.

The Song of Songs fits into this tradition, and its use on Pesach reflects one of the messages of the Passover story.

In our tradition, the Exodus from Egypt is presented as being the first act of love performed by God for the people. The giving of the Torah at Sinai and the people's commitment to observe the commandments is often viewed in the tradition as a marriage ceremony in which both parties pledge their love and devotion.

The rabbis claim that the book is a parable, speaking of the love between God and the people of Israel.

Reading Song of Songs for the first time might be surprising. We might ask, as did some of the rabbis, why this is in the Bible. We can appreciate the text for its beauty, and we can also understand the reason why the tradition wanted to preserve this book as a graphic metaphor of something that cannot really be explained—the love of God for human beings.

As we sit at the seder table and reflect on issues of slavery and freedom, marveling at the lasting traditions that we share and are committed to upholding, we should also take some time to reflect upon our covenant with God, which is based upon obligation, commitment and love. In the spirit of Song of Songs and its noted author, we should look at the seder and the holiday of Pesach as an opportunity to look past any cynicism or boredom we have acquired over the years, and recapture the pure and passionate love that all of us should have for our marvelous tradition. ■

Shabbat Hagadol—the Great Sabbath

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

On the Shabbat before Passover (April 19), the rabbi shall teach and explain the laws of Passover," states the Code of Jewish Law. This refers to the traditional sermon given on this Saturday, *Shabbat Hagadol*—the Great Sabbath, a link with olden days when "people from all the surrounding villages would gather together to learn the laws of the upcoming holiday."

Must the Rabbi include anything specific in his sermon? The Code answers: "The most important thing is that he expound upon and show them the ways of God, and teach them the deeds that they must do."

Obviously, the "deeds that they must do" refers to the cleaning, nullification of leaven, baking of matzah, preparations for the seder, and other practical matters pertaining to Passover. But what is meant by "the ways of God"?

A "way" is only a means of reaching a particular goal. The path we choose to get there is not an end in itself, but only a necessary means by which we may arrive at our destination. Therefore, the "ways of God" are not the Torah and mitzvot (commandments) themselves, for these are the ultimate goal. "The ways of God" must, accordingly, refer to anything which will lead us to a more observant and religious life.

Love and awe of God are the two main paths that lead us to a fuller life of Jewish observance. These two emotions infuse our service of God with the proper joy and delight. The Torah and mitzvot themselves are our objective, but it is the love and reverence we feel for God that ensures that our actions will be performed in the most perfect manner possible.

"A mitzvah performed without the proper intention is like a body without a soul," say our Sages. Of course, the most important thing, in any event, is that the mitzvah gets done, however lofty our intentions or our ulterior motives may be, because a mitzvah connects an individual to God and brings holiness down into the physical world.

But God wants Jews to rejoice in His Torah and do His mitzvot with zeal and enthusiasm, not with an eye to fulfilling only the barest minimum prescribed by law. That is why our emotions play such an important part in our observance, and why we are obligated to reflect on the greatness and glory of God, to lead us to the proper awe and respect.

This Shabbat, when the rabbi delivers his sermon, he will deliver more than a dry recitation of the minutiae of practical Torah law. Rather, he will endeavor to infuse the congregation with the positive feelings that are the "ways of God," which bring us to the perfection in our service that we seek. For it is only with a happy heart and with true joy in being a part of the Chosen People that we may celebrate the coming festival of Passover to the fullest. ■

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Vegetable Soup (½ Gal.)*	$10.95	_____
ENTREES		
Stuffed chicken breast (with apple raisin stuffing)	$ 11.95 each	_____
*Grilled chicken breast**	$ 9.95 each	_____
1/2 Roasted Chicken w/ light gravy*	$ 9.95 each	_____
Chicken Tenders (½ pound)*	$ 6.95	_____
Brisket – per serving*	$ 15.95	_____
*Prime Rib of Beef au jus**	$ 15.95 each	_____
*Whole Turkey*with gravy (serves 8-10)*	$72.00 each	_____
SIDES		
Potato Kugel (serves 12-16)*	$ 18.95	_____
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Matzo Stuffing Kugel (serves 12-16)	$ 21.95	_____
Apple Raisin Kugel (serves 6-8)	$ 9.95	_____
*Grilled Spring Vegetables**	$ 10.95/lb	_____
*Roasted Yukon Potatoes**	$ 8.95/lb	_____
Spaghetti Squash with Wild Mushrooms*	$ 8.95/lb	_____
Kishke – per piece	$ 1.95 each	_____
Charoses (1/2 pint)*	$ 5.95	_____
Shankbone (with order)	no charge	_____
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GRANDE FINALE		
Chocolate Buttercream Torte	$ 35.00	_____
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What's happening at Temple Beth Emeth in April

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

Families with young children

For families with kids from birth to five years old. Older siblings and grandparents are welcome as always. Non members are welcome at all events. For more information, contact Devon Fitzig, dfitzig@templebethemeth.org, 665-4744 or Jill Pritts, jillpritts@yahoo.com.

Tot Pesach with Rabbi Levy at TBE

Sunday, April 6, 4 to 5 p.m. Enjoy music, crafts and a story. If you have questions, contact Devon at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

Thursday Play Group

This weekly play group meets on Thursday Mornings from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Temple Beth Emeth. Open to the community. Contact Ginger for more information or if you plan to attend, ginger.derrow@gmail.com

Tot Shabbat EVERY WEEK!

Join us every week for Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and Shira (Song Fest and Service) at 6:45 p.m.. No catered adult dinner after March 14.

PJ Library

PJ Library is a free book a month program for families that have children aged six months to seven years old. To participate, contact Devon Fitzig, dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

Twenties & Thirties

Twenties and Thirties (TNT) of Temple Beth Emeth provides a welcoming, inclusive Jewish community through monthly social and cultural activities. Non-TBE members are welcome. Visit the website at http://www.templebethemeth.org/tnt for upcoming events, or email tnt@templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744.

TNT planning meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m. Pizza dinner provided. RSVP to Devon at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org by March 31.

Break Passover at Pizza House

Sunday, April 27, 7 p.m. RSVP to Jessica at jegoldbe@umich.edu by April 21.

TNT Mitzvah Day Project at Alpha House/IHN

Saturday, May 3, 1 p.m. Help with Alpha House's outdoor spring clean-up. Wear work clothes and closed-toe shoes. Register by calling the temple office, 665-4744. For more information, contact Sharon Gourjdi, sgourdji@umich.edu.

Movie Tuesdays

For people with flexible schedules. Monthly film and discussion series held on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m. Coffee and noshes are provided. Childcare is available with advanced notice. Movie Tuesdays usually occur on the third Tuesday of the month.

Movie: *Heir to an Execution,* Tuesday, April 15, 1–3 p.m.

A 2004 Sundance Film Festival selection. This deeply personal feature-length documentary chronicles filmmaker Ivy Meeropol's journey to come to terms with the lives and deaths of her grandparents, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were executed as traitors in 1953 after being accused of relaying the secret of the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union.

Saturday morning Torah Study

An exploration of the weekly Torah portion held in the TBE chapel. Saturdays at 8:50 a.m., followed by a lay-led chapel service at 9:30 a.m. (optional). Casual dress is fine.

Jewish Hikers event

April 13, 1 p.m. Jewish Hikers of Michigan (JHOM) is sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth's Caring Community and is open to anyone. All adult couples, singles and children are welcome. The hikes take place on a monthly basis on different trails in the local area. All skill levels are welcome. Participants are encouraged to bring backpacks, munchies and drinks. Each hike lasts approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours. For further information, contact Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645, or email jewish.hikers@gmail.com. Web site: http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan.

Yom Hashoah & Shabbat Service

Friday, May 2, 7:30 p.m. This meaningful Shabbat service is created by Generations After, TBE's group of relatives of Holocaust Survivors in commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day. All are welcome.

Israel at 60 Events

On Saturday, April 5, TBE presents **Havdallah and Israeli Chocolate Tasting** followed by the film, Walk on Water at Temple Beth Emeth at 7:30 p.m.. This Israeli film is in English with Hebrew and German subtitles, rated R. Cost: $5/person.

TBE will co-sponsor the Ann Arbor Jewish Community **Celebrate Israel** event taking place on Sunday, May 4. Watch for details on an incredible performance by Shaketak: Rhythm in Motion on Monday evening, May 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Power Center. Volunteers are needed for this event; contact Devon if you are interested in helping.

Current Events in the Middle East

On Friday, May 9, Bob Schwartz, Senior Policy Advisor for the Consul General of Israel in Chicago, will speak at Shabbat Services on "Current Events in the Middle East." Services are at 7:30 p.m., preceded by an-Israeli-themed Shabbat dinner at 6 p.m.

Songs of Israel at her 60th

Kol Halev and High School Shir Chadash present "Songs of Israel at her 60th" with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Sunday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at the Michigan Theatre. This event is part of the Ann Arbor Jewish Community's celebration of Israel's 60th Anniversary. Ticket prices are $12 for general seating and $72 reserved orchestra seating and afterglow with maestro Arie Lipsky.

Look for upcoming publicity on these events. For more information, contact Devon Fitzig, dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

Midwest Recons Retreat

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

The Reconstructionist movement marks its first Midwest All-Ages Retreat April 11-13 at the Butzel Retreat Center, part of Camp Tamarack in Ortonville, Michigan. The intergenerational gathering will include musical services, Torah yoga, and a variety of intellectual and creative offerings. Six states will participate in this event, with several regional havurot and synagogues sending their rabbis to lead part of the teaching.

Offerings by members of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah include Torah yoga, music, and teachings on deepening Shabbat practice. Substantial children's programming will also be included. For further information, contact Rabbi Renee Bauer, reneebauer@earthlink.net or (608) 320-1144.

AARH to host seder on April 20

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah will host a Passover seder on Sunday, April 20, at the Jewish Community of Washtenaw County. At the seder, children will get to enjoy kosher-for-Passover (read: modified) s'mores, while grown-ups will get to delve more deeply into the ways in which the intellectual intertwine with the spiritual in this relaxed, casual gathering. The traditional order of the seder will be followed somewhat loosely, with plenty of time for in-depth study and discussion. Check the Havurah website at www.aarecon.org, or call Aura Ahuvia, 975-9045, for more information.

JCC hosts intergenerational Passover seder

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's Older Adult program and the Early Childhood Center will celebrate Passover together with an intergenerational Passover seder on Thursday, April 17 at 11 a.m. at the JCC. Children from the ECC will welcome a mystery guest who will guide an interactive telling of the Passover story. Songs and dances from the holiday will enliven the celebration. A Passover style lunch will be served to everyone who attends. For more informa

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Photo: East Side Sweet Evelyn, New York City, 1938, Morris Engel. Courtesy Howard Greenberg Gallery & Mary Engel

Jewish Cultural Society April programs

Erika Hauff, special to the WJN

First Friday Shabbat

April's First Friday Shabbat will be held Friday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m. Continuing the culinary tour of the Jewish world, April's destination is Eastern Europe. Bring a (vegetarian) Eastern European dish to pass, or bring small contributions to fund the culinary adventures (~$8/person or ~$20/family). Help the group to order the correct quantity of food by emailing an RSVP to jcs@jccfed.org.

This year, the Jewish Cultural Society has been running two Shabbat observances concurrently; one for adult/young adult members and another one for young children.

The First Friday Observance was rewritten in September 2007 and is designed for our adult and young adult members who want to slow down and take time at the end of a busy week to relax and reflect on the week past and the week to come. Sometimes there is a speaker, sometimes there is a discussion on a topic of interest, and sometimes people just hang out and share time with JCS family and friends.

Children participate in Family Shabbat with *tzofim* (aides). Family Shabbat is a great way to welcome in the weekend with young children. The Shabbat begins with a short and upbeat celebration, geared to young kids with lots of singing and jumping. Following Shabbat, the group has dinner all together, and then the kids read stories, work on a craft project, or run around in the gym or play outside to burn off some of their extra energy.

Adult education series

"From Sumeria to Brooklyn: The Long, Strange Trip of the Jewish People" will be held on April 13, 10:15–11:45 a.m. This is part of a bi-weekly series for Jewish adults, taught by Larry Kuperman. Larry Kuperman has been a member and Sunday School teacher for the Jewish Cultural Society for many years. This program is perfect for those interested in learning about Jewish history, the origins of the Bible, the forms of Judaism today, including focus on Secular Humanistic values, and the implications for modern identity.

This month, Larry will speak about American Judaism. What has the Jewish experience in America been over time? How has America changed us and how have we changed America? Discussion to follow. This event is free and the public is welcome. Bagels and coffee served. For more information, email jcs@jccfed.org. ■

April events at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special the WJN

Charoset Throwdown

This new competitive event will take place on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m. putting each family's charoset on the line to win the title of "Beth Israel's Best." Participants will learn the history and traditions of charoset, and then find out who makes the best charoset in Ann Arbor. Those who are not in the competition will have fun watching it, tasting the results, and deciding on the winner.

Young families Passover Dinner

All families with children in preschool through first grade are invited on Monday, April 14, at 5:30 p.m. to a Pesach celebration. The interactive dinner program will feature songs, stories and Passover crafts to prepare for the holiday.

Pre-Pesach Pizza Dinner

Participants will be able to indulge in chometz and really carb it up at this casual Pre-Pesach Pizza dinner on Tuesday, April 15, at 6 p.m. The Prince of Egypt for kids (of any age) will be shown on Beth Israel's wide screen.

Kadima Chocolate Seder

Thursday, April 17, at 4:30 p.m.

All children in sixth through eighth grade are invited to experience a seder like no other—the famous Chocolate Seder. No parents are allowed as the kids enjoy tasty treats and decadent delights at an event overflowing with chocolate.

Passover services

Passover morning services are held in the Beth Israel Sanctuary on the first two days of Passover, April 20 and April 21, and on the last two days of Passover April 26 and April 27. All the services begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude about noon.

Monthly programs

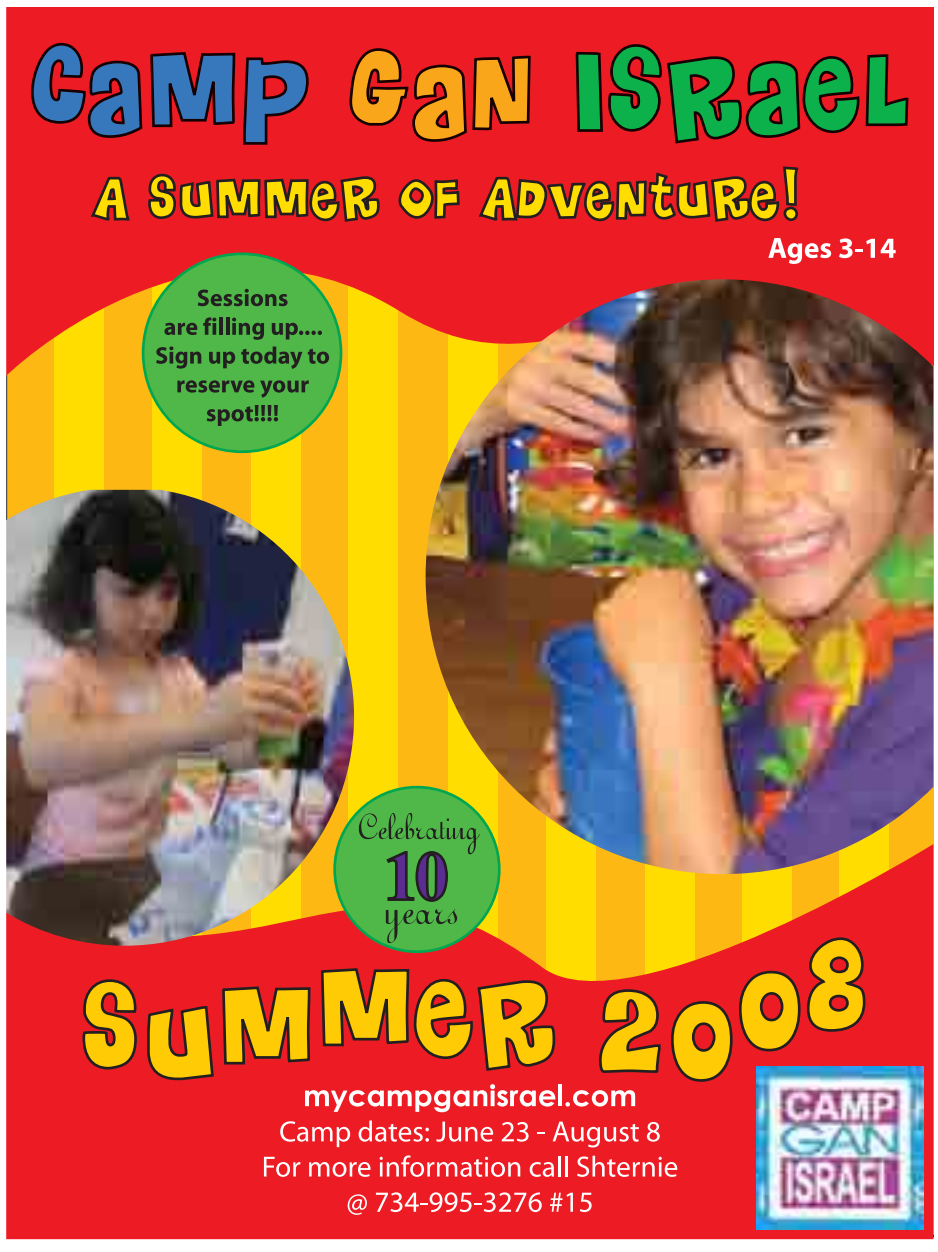
Tot Shabbat is held from 11:15 a.m.–noon. the second and fourth Saturday every month for children up to age five and their families. This is a kid-centered learning service with stories, songs, and participatory activities. This month's Tot Shabbats are April 12 led by Peretz Hirshbein and April 26 led by Jennifer Levine. Also on April 12 the congregation offers "M&M"—Minyan Matok. Minyan Matok is an interactive learning Shabbat service especially for children in kindergarten through first grade. Minyan Matok starts at 11:15 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month.

On the third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m., Beth Israel offers a Shabbat yoga class taught by Allison Stupka. This month's yoga class will be held on April 19. The Yoga takes place in Room 15 in the lower level of the building.

New members in April enjoy 15 months of membership

Individuals and families who join Beth Israel in April can sign up for 15 months of membership, including the 2008 high holidays for the same membership fees. In addition $300 membership dues are available for new members under the age of 35, for the first year, including high holiday tickets. ■

All of Beth Israel programs are open to the general community. For further information call 665-9897 or visit www.bethisrael-aa.org.



Youth

JCC youth programs

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Passover Break Fun Days in April

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will offer a series of exciting April Break Fun Days for Ann Arbor Public School students from Monday, April 7, through Friday, April 11. Students should bring a nut free, dairy lunch each day. Registrations are requested as soon as possible to reserve space.

The JCC will also offer a Passover Break Fun Days program for Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor students on Friday, April 18, and Tuesday, April 22, through Friday, April 25. Students should bring a nut free, dairy lunch on April 18. A Passover lunch will be provided on April 22, 23, 24, and 25. Students should not bring food from home those days. Registrations are requested by Monday, April 14.

Special themes and field trips are being planned for both Fun Days programs; contact the JCC for specific details about each day. The Fun Days are open to JCC members in kindergarten through fifth grade. The cost for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. is $32 ($30 for additional siblings). There is an additional charge of $8 for extended care from 4–6 p.m.

Red Cross Babysitting Class offered

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will host a two-day American Red Cross Babysitting Class on Tuesday, April 15, and Thursday, April 17, from 4–7 p.m. Pizza dinners will be served both days. The class will teach child safety, first aid, baby care, and developmentally appropriate play. Upon completion, students will receive a card showing that they are certified by the American Red Cross.

The class is open to students ages 11-17; students must have turned 11 by the start of the class to receive certification. Students who are 10 years old are welcome to participate but will not receive certification. A second babysitting class will be offered at the JCC in the fall.

The cost is $75 for JCC members and $80 for non-members. Registrations are requested as soon as possible to reserve space..

Next session of JCC Youth Enrichment Classes begins April 28

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County offers a variety of fun and stimulating afternoon enrichment classes for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The classes are open to both JCC members and non-members. The next session of classes will run for six weeks, beginning on April 28. Class offerings will include Abrakadoodle Art, Martial Arts, and Sports with Kim, as well as some exciting new options.

For more information and registration details, contact the JCC youth director Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or deborahhuerta@jccfed.org.

Ken Pardes youth group announces upcoming events

Rachel Schreiber, special to the WJN

Ken Pardes, the Ann Arbor youth group chapter of Habonim Dror-Camp Tavor, has announced its spring events. Area youth are invited to join Ken Pardes on April 27 for a Tikkun Olam (community service) project.

Two Ken Pardes events are scheduled for May. There will be a Yom Hashoah Remembrance and Shabbat Dinner on May 9, and this event is open to the entire family. May 23 will bring

a program on Israeli and movement history. Ken Pardes is a welcoming group and is always happy to have new kids joining in the activities.

For more information about the times, places and events, contact Sophia Blumenthal, thephibird@yahoo.com, or Matan Naamani, immatan@att.net. Generally, there is no cost for the Ken Pardes events and they are open to everyone.

To learn more about Camp Tavor, visit www.camptavor.org. Tavor is located in Three Rivers, Michigan, two hours west of Ann Arbor. ■

"In every generation, one must look upon oneself as if one personally had come out from Egypt."

The Passover Haggadah

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Our dedication to Tikkun Olam – repairing the world – finds expression in many activities that reach out to others in our community and throughout the world.

Come visit us and you'll be warmly welcomed, no matter how long you've lived in the area, no matter what your Jewish background.

- New members who join in April May or June, receive membership through June 30, 2009, including the 2008 High Holidays. To encourage younger people to apply, new members aged 35 and below may acquire membership in their first year for dues of only $300.
- All Beth Israel dues are based on a 'fair share system' based on household income. Financial assistance and scholarships available for dues and religious school fees.
- Call or email Beth Israel Office for more information.

Beth Israel Congregation
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You've got camp: Viral marketing aims to find new Jewish campers

by Jacob Berkman

NEW YORK (JTA)—The Foundation for Jewish Camp is taking a page from the Barack Obama campaign manual and adopting a viral marketing strategy that has helped put the candidate in the pole position for the presidency.

The foundation, previously known as the Foundation for Jewish Camping, has received more than $26 million in grants to provide financial incentives to first-time Jewish campers over the next several years through its Campership and JWest Campership programs.

To market the JWest program, aimed at campers in six western communities in the United States, the foundation has hired two high-profile, Los Angeles-based marketing firms to use online word-of-mouth messaging in a bid to penetrate the outer crust of the unaffiliated Jewish community.

The new approach comes amid a growing sense in the Jewish community that Jewish camping provides one of the strongest foundations for developing and retaining Jewish identity. The number of campers has increased since the Jewish Camping Foundation was created in 1998, but proponents see a huge untapped market of potential campers.

The strategic marketing of JWest is part of a broader move by the foundation to reshape the way it sells Jewish camps to Jewish families. That includes changing the foundation's name this week to the Foundation for Jewish Camp: Community by the Cabinful.

"Marketing is definitely one strategy to get more Jewish kids into Jewish summer camps," said Rina Goldberg, a spokeswoman for the foundation, which has helped increase the number of Jewish children in Jewish overnight camps from approximately 57,000 in 2000 to some 70,000 in 2007.

The marketing strategy moves away from the traditional Jewish organizational method of advertising in Jewish and mainstream print publications and in synagogue bulletins. It relies on the online proliferation of e-mails and multimedia clips through a kind of e-chain letter.

Though smaller, young Jewish organizations have started using social networking venues such as Facebook and MySpace to advertise events, it is believed that this is the first attempt by a major Jewish organization to adopt viral marketing in a serious way.

"Instead of using media to find Jews, we are using Jews to find Jews," Gary Wexler, the founder of Passion Marketing, told JTA on Monday, sitting by in a sunlit corridor at the Hyatt Regency in Jersey City, N.J., where the foundation held its annual leadership summit earlier this week.

Wexler said the old-school media doesn't work to reach unaffiliated Jews because they don't read Jewish newspapers and advertisements in mainstream papers only hit about 3 percent of the target audience.

Wexler, who lists among his clients the Ford Foundation and Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation, is working with Colette Brooks, the founder of Big Imagination Group, which helped bring hybrid cars to the mainstream by enlisting A-list celebrities such as Leonardo DiCaprio, Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson to arrive at the Oscars in the fuel-efficient Toyota Prius.

The broader Campership program is using $15 million in grants to partner with local Jewish communities to offer financial incentives to first-time campers across the country.

Wexler and Brooks are trying to push the foundation's JWest program, a four-year grant of $11.2 million from the Jim Joseph Foundation. The program focuses on six western communities that provides $1,800 vouchers to first-time campers and $1,000 vouchers to campers who enroll in a second year.

Brooks says they have developed a four-phase plan complete with snappy catch phrases. Phase one is titled "Butts in Bunks."

Their work started in earnest with a collaboration of 25 camp directors, federation officials and lay leaders who met for a one-day summit in January to discuss what might resonate with prospective campers. Brooks and Wexler then developed the e-mail that they hope will set the process in motion. The trick of the viral plan is in how that e-mail was sent out, starting early this month.

Brooks, Wexler and the foundation asked camp directors, federation executives, synagogue rabbis and JCC directors to identify several "parent influencers"—community leaders viewed as trendsetters who already were sending their children to Jewish camps.

The influencers were asked to send the e-mail to their entire communities, and those community members were asked to distribute the e-mail to 10 others. Those 10 were asked to send on the e-mail to 10 others.

"We are working with Jews who are involved in Jewish life because every Jew who is involved with Jewish life knows Jews who are not involved with Jewish life—it is their friends or their neighbors or their soccer pals or their dance pals," Wexler said.

Wexler hopes that if the strategy is successful, others will follow.

The Foundation for Camp is watching how the viral strategy works on the West Coast before helping the communities involved in its other Campership program apply some of the methods. So far, the response to the initial e-mail blast has been "overwhelming," according to Skip Vichness, chairman of the Camping foundation board.

"We are engaging the foot soldiers, if you will," said Brooks, who like Wexler is on the younger side of middle age and sports hip glasses. "With their voice it becomes a much more personal message." ■

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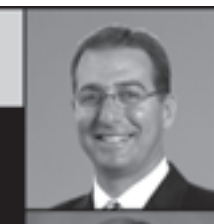

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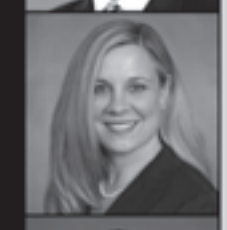

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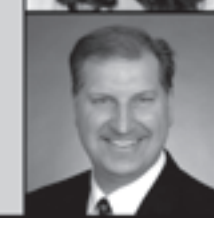

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"Be Happy It's Adar Talent Show" stars Hebrew Day School students

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

The Jewish month of Adar, in which falls the holiday of Purim, is a harbinger of joy. Our tradition tells us "When the month of Adar enters, our joy multiplies."

Joy multiplied for the HDS students, parents, and grandparents who packed the JCC gym in early March for the "Be Happy It's Adar Student Talent Show," an event which annually welcomes this month of gladness. There were 27 student performers, ranging from first through fifth graders. The program opened with first grader Lily Rosenberg's perfectly pitched rendition of "Under the Boardwalk," and ended with fifth grader Adam Kahana's concert piano performance of "Solfeggieto" (Bach) and "Phantasietanz" (Schumann).

First Grader Lily Rosenberg sings "Under the Boardwalk"

Students performed instrumental solos not only on piano, but also on recorder, cello, violin, and cornet. There were also instrumental duets, dance trios, as well as magic and comedy shows. Students teamed together to choreograph original dance pieces and to provide each other with instrumental accompaniment. Hava Kaplan played the piano for her friend Leah Weingarten's cornet solo, and Abby Calef sang with her friend Seth Stancroff who played the acoustic guitar.

Second graders Sophie Beaver, Emma Block, and Grace Kaufer sing "Spyder Pig"

Twin sisters, Ayelet and Hadass Pollock, played the song "Hot Cross Buns," one on the piano and the other on the violin; and Liana Dunietz played "Doe a Deer" on the piano while her friend Rachel Pacernick sang into the microphone. Nathan Carbeck and Kobi Eichner had the audience laughing with their rendition of the famous narrative "Who's on First," accompanied by Joseph Gurt (grandfather of Nathan) playing "Take me out to the Ballgame" on the piano.

Talented parents also helped out: Lisa Wolf, Caroline Helton, and Steve Calef each played the piano while their daughters sang. Gabriel Levy performed martial arts accompanied by her teacher, Rabbi Peter Gluck. There were also group performances: the lunch-time juggling club led by parent volunteer Debbie Zivan; the HDS Klez Kids Band and the school's recorder ensembles led by Debra Gombert; and the fifth grade string orchestra led by teacher Mark Schuppener. All students and groups had to audition in order to perform in the show.

Alumni Mara Abramson and Michele Freed MC the talent show

Fifth grader Adam Kahana plays "Solfeggieto" (Bach) and "Phantasietanz" (Schumann)

Adding to the merriment were two HDS alumnae, Mara Abramson and Michele Freed, who served as the MCs for the evening. Portraying the Purim characters, they changed costumes in between sets, and introduced each performer with humorous and clever "shtick." Talented themselves, they shared a bit of their own skills at singing and juggling.

It was an inspiring night of young talent, which in many cases went way beyond what one might expect from children of elementary school age. The joy belonged to the appreciative audience, but it also belonged to the young performers who were thrilled to have an opportunity to shine on stage. ■

For more information about Hebrew Day School, call 971-4633 or visit www.hdsaa.org.

Outdoor education, or getting the kids out of the house!

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

On the day of the first real accumulation of snow this winter, a group of one-year-olds toddled out of their classroom at the JCC Early Childhood Center onto the snow covered playground outside. A year before they had been babes-in-arms; now they were venturing out to explore the snow for the first time. One boy discovered that the slide was much faster in the snow. Two other children discovered that climbing the stairs of the play structure had become a tricky proposition. In each case, something very familiar had become a whole new experience. The simple act of going outside in different conditions had created a richer new learning opportunity.

Unfortunately, the relationship that children have with the outdoors and nature is becoming more and more tenuous. According to Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, "Our society is teaching young people to avoid direct experience with nature…Well-meaning public school systems, media, and parents are effectively scaring children straight out of the woods and fields." The reasons for this change are familiar: concerns about safety and sanitation, the litigious nature of our society, worries that children will get too hot or too cold, fear of abduction, hectic lives that make getting outside something that needs to be scheduled, and many more.

So what are the consequences of this decline in time spent out of doors in nature? According to Mary Rivkin, author of *The Great Outdoors*, children know less about nature, the flora and fauna of their immediate environments, than prior generations, since their knowledge comes from sources like books and television, rather than direct experience. Direct experiences with nature teach children to value the environment and provide an impetus towards tikkun olam, repairing the world.

"Furthermore," Rivkin says, "The development of children's perceptual abilities may suffer when so much of their experience is through TV, computers, books, and media that require but two senses." Young children, particularly, are sensory-motor learners. Memories are attached to sounds, smells, and tastes, not just sight and sound. Movement and activity reinforce and fix knowledge. Outside, in nature, we use all of our senses to learn about the world around us, not just two. Outside, we have the freedom and desire to move, and be active.

Greater knowledge of and appreciation for nature are only two of the many benefits of providing children with plenty of time to experience the outdoors. The current epidemic of childhood obesity could be more effectively combated by providing children with the outdoor experiences that teach the habits of an active lifestyle. Learning experiences taking place outside have a richness missing from the same experiences indoors, as the changing natural world adds layers of learning. While providing children with plenty of outdoor time during the whole year, summer—and summer camp—provides the richest outdoor learning opportunities. The American Jewish community realized long ago how important outdoor experiences are for children, playing a major role in the development of Fresh Air Fund camps across the country.

Last summer, the staff of the JCC Early Childhood Center (ECC) learned just how rich this learning could be, as the entire preschool program moved out onto an "outdoor classroom" and was transformed into Camp Keshet. Director Noreen DeYoung says, "Moving the program outdoors provides the children with an authentic summer camp experience. We felt that it was important for children to experience the many different sights, textures and smells that the outdoors has to offer." Nancy Witter, a teacher at the ECC says that "The contrast between the man-made environment in the classroom and the natural environment of the outdoors was obviously a learning experience. One of the biggest differences was natural sunlight instead of artificial light. Natural light changed with the weather and time of day. Sunlight and shade moved across the outdoors."

Teachers noticed that the children had far richer experiences outdoors, using the same materials that they might have used inside. The book area, set under a large hickory tree had the same kinds of books and comfortable places to sit as existed inside. But Witter noticed that the experience was totally different: "Sitting on a blanket and reading a book was a science activity. Hickory nuts, leaves, and twigs were on the ground. Squirrels were in the tree top gnawing on the nuts and dropping pieces of the hulls down on the ground. Insects were crawling on the bark of the trunk!" Fellow teacher Anne Giorio said that when the children were using the outdoor classroom, they could "explore many aspects of nature, from using flowers as pretend food in the house area, to cutting the grass with scissors, to experimenting with mixing sand and water to get mud."

Spending time outdoors reduces conflict as well. According to ECC teacher Michelle Paris, "Even though children often worked close together, we saw much less conflict between children in the eight weeks we spent in the outdoor classroom." Spending time outdoors reduces stress levels, allowing people of all ages to respond to potential conflict far more calmly. Lowered stress also increases people's ability to concentrate and be aware of what is going on around them. For example, ECC children used large pieces of lumber all summer to create structures, but according to DeYoung, "The children were so aware of what they were doing that in eight weeks we did not have a single case of wood getting dropped on anyone! I attribute that to the open spaces the children had to build and this increase in awareness."

So what can parents do to help their children bond with the natural world? Find time for the outdoors. Although that is far easier said than done, we can look at the kinds of activities we sign our children up for, and make sure that at least some of them involve nature. Get involved in one of the various scouting programs out there. Think about your children's camp experiences. Once upon a time, camp was synonymous with the outdoors. Now, camp has a much more diverse meaning, as all sorts of programs use the same moniker. Louv, in his call for a camp revival, warns that, "The nature experience at these camps could be lost if nature camps allow their missions to become diluted, if they attempt to please everyone all the time." Deborah Huerta, director of the JCC's Camp Raanana, agrees: "We believe that spending time outdoors in an essential part of the childhood experience. Outdoor time provides children with an appreciation and understanding of nature, encourages healthy exercise habits, and provides those beautiful rosy cheeks that we love to see on our campers!"

Louv believes that outdoor education is so valuable because it focuses on, "the elements that have always united humankind: driving rain, hard wind, warm sun, forests deep and dark—and the awe and amazement that our earth inspires, especially during our formative years." ■

For more information on Camp Raanana and Camp Keshet, go to www.campraanana.com or call 971-0990.

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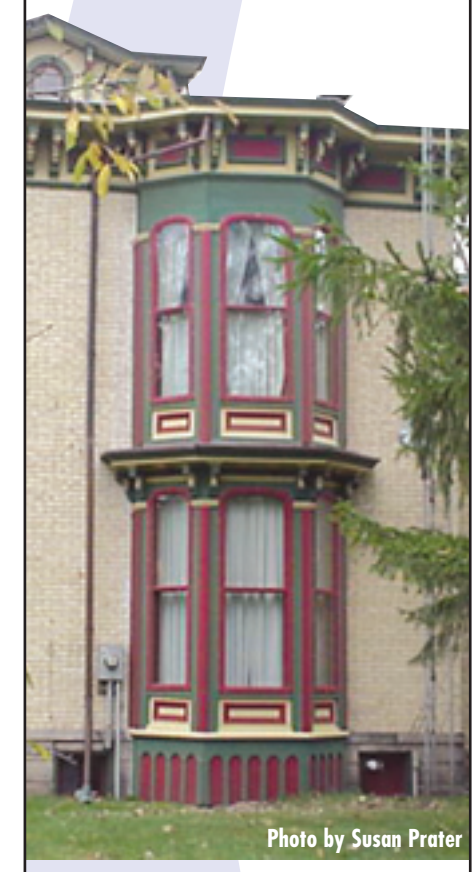
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For Israeli students, a sense of empowerment

College students from disadvantaged backgrounds get much-needed scholarships, and give back to next generation.

by Sharon Udasin, editorial intern, The New York Jewish Week

Winding her way through the rustic streets of Rome, a young Israeli student enters the pillared halls of La Sapienza University, where she will learn about viruses, participate in gross anatomy and study clinical procedureall in a foreign language.

Hilla Werner-Zafrani, 29, is a third-year medical school student at La Sapienza, where she is training to become an oncologist. Originally from a poor Moroccan family of 10 children, she grew up enduring constant ethnic discrimination and financial burdens in Israel.

"I used to go to a school where 90 percent of the students were Ashkenazi," Werner-Zafrani said. "I felt the discrimination really hard." She was one of only three Sephardic students in her high school, where she felt socially excluded and ostracized because of her background.

Despite all the obstacles in her life, Werner-Zafrani managed to graduate among the top students in her high school and was admitted to medical school. But she struggled to finance her education by giving Hebrew lessons and babysitting until last year, when she discovered the ISEF Foundation.

Werner-Zafrani is one of over 800 Israeli students reaping the benefits of a unique scholarship opportunity. Since 1977, the ISEF Foundation has aimed to breach Israel's socioeconomic gap and enable underprivileged, young Israelis to attend universities.

The organization now funds students' educations from their bachelors' degrees in Israel through their graduate degrees abroad. In turn, students tutor underprivileged Israeli high school students and agree to return to Israel after their studies, which could help stem the brain drain of Israeli professionals and academics. Should they choose not to return, their scholarship grants simply become repayable loans.

"You're not just getting the check," said Avishai Benish, 34, a master's candidate at Columbia Law School and funding recipient. "There is an expectation to give back to the community."

Fewer than half of young Israelis have access to a college education, according to the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics. Only through the assistance of such organizations have advanced educations become viable options for disadvantaged Israeli youth. More than 25 of the ISEF scholars from universities across the world assembled recently in Manhattan to meet with the philanthropy's leadership.

"The fact that this organization takes us and puts us in the spotlight and lets us shine gives me all the motivation and power in the world," Werner-Zafrani said.

Despite its original name which was the International Sephardic Education Foundation, ISEF grants scholarships without regard to ethnicity, on the basis of financial need and academic excellence. It funds a wide array of students, including immigrants from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia, as well as native Israeli Druze Arabs.

"The major goal was to create leaders and educate people to help Israel in the crucial work of closing the social gap," said Nina Weiner, a co-founder and current president of the organization.

Due to limited funding, Weiner's foundation can only help one out of every four qualified applicants. The more students who learn about the organization, the more she has to reject.

Arranged much like a family, the students recently sat together in a comfortable circle of chairs, exchanging stories. Participants flew in from as far as Germany, California and even Israel to attend the annual lectures and banquets prepared for them.

Since 1977, ISEF has aimed to breach Israel's socioeconomic gap and enable underprivileged, young Israelis to attend universities.

"I think I am the only one in my [high school] class that went to university," said Haim Machluf, 34, from the small village of Kefar-Yona and currently a student at Harvard Law School with the foundation's assistance. His parents immigrated to Israel from Libya in 1949.

"When I decided to study abroad I contacted ISEF," he said. "I'm not sure I could've done this without the help of ISEF."

Across the country in California, his peer Vered Padler-Karavani is likewise reaping the benefits of a foundation scholarship.

"I'm one of the dinosaurs here," said Padler-Karavani, 37, of Rosh-Ha'ayin. "I basically grew up through ISEF."

Padler-Karavani has been benefiting from Weiner's organization since she began her bachelor's degree in 1993. After her undergraduate studies, she completed a doctorate in biochemistry at Tel Aviv University and is currently a postdoctoral fellow in glycobiology at the University of California – San Diego. From a struggling Yemenite family, starting in third grade Padler-Karavani began taking long bus trips alone, to take supplementary science courses at Bar Ilan University and Tel Aviv University.

"One of the traits that a scientist needs is to be able to cope with negative results," Padler-Karavani said.

Padler-Karavani is excited to bring a glycobiology program to Israel and return home with her husband and two children.

Formerly unseen and discouraged students are now weaving their way to the forefront of Israeli progress and leadership.

"My goal is to be a Supreme Court justice in Israel," said Karin Yefet, 28, a fourth-year doctoral candidate at Yale Law School and scholarship recipient. Yefet is from a poor neighborhood in Afula, one of the southernmost Galilee cities to be bombed by Hezbollah during the Lebanon war in 2006. Thus far, no Sephardic women have served as Supreme Court justices and Yefet strives to break this barrier.

"ISEF is a story of empowerment," Weiner said. "We empower our students, and they in turn empower our children." ■

American Jews and Israel

By Jacob Berkman

NEW YORK (JTA)—Flying in the face of two decades of research that indicates that American Jews are falling out of love with Israel, a new report says that American Jews love Israel as much as they always have—and that in the future, that sentiment may grow more intense.

Conventional wisdom, based largely on the work of sociologist Steven Cohen, is that American Jews are becoming less attached to Israel by the generation, as younger Jews typically feel less close to Israel and Israelis than older Jews, states the paper.

The conventional argument is that as young Jews become older Jews, they take their Israel apathy with them, and then successive younger generations feel even less attached to Israel.

But that notion—and Cohen—are plain wrong, states the Steinhardt Social Research Institute's paper, "American Jewish Attachment to Israel: An Assessment of the 'Distancing' Hypothesis."

"It is our sense that a consensus has been solidifying in Jewish intellectual circles that American Jewry is growing more distant from Israel," Theodore Sasson, the paper's lead researcher, told JTA. "We didn't think there was any evidence of that."

The trouble with the commonly held notion, says the Steinhardt paper, is that it is based on a variety of surveys—such as Gallup polls, the National Jewish Population Study and smaller focus group studies - that do not ask the same questions year after year and therefore, can not be compared.

The "distancing theory," said Sasson, is based on the idea that older Jews saw Israel in a much different phase in its history than have younger Jews. Older Jews saw Israel at its miraculous birth and fighting a war for independence, and achieving victory in its 1967 Six-Day War. Many younger Jews, in contrast, know the Israel of the intifada, or Palestinian uprising, the more complicated entity that is viewed by much of the world as the oppressor of the Palestinian people.

But when one looks at questionnaires that consistently asked the same set of questions about Israel year after year, one finds that Jewish sentiment is not changing significantly for the worse, at all, argues the Steinhardt paper. It says the best such data exists in the American Jewish Committee's annual Survey of Jewish Public Opinion, which has been poling Jews since the early 1980s with roughly the same set of questions. And that survey shows that very little has changed in terms of American Jews' view on Israel over the past 13 years.

According to the AJC surveys, since 1994, the percentage of Jews who agree with the statement "Caring about Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew," has fallen from 75 percent to just less than 70 percent, a number that Sasson calls insignificant. Over the same time, the percentage of Jews who said they feel "very close" or "fairly close" to Israel actually rose from 66 to 70 percent.

What is really happening, says the Steinhardt report, is that Jews tend to become closer to Israel as they grow older. So, when one looks at age cohorts year by year, there tends not to be a dropping off in affinity for Israel. Older Jews simply feel closer to Israel.

When you add to that the success of birthright israel, which has sent some 140,000 American Jews between the ages of 18 and 25 on free trips to Israel since 2000, young Jews stand to become even close to Israel, according to the report.

At first glance, the Steinhardt paper looks like a stab at Cohen, who has long been at intellectual odds with Steinhardt researchers—who are based at Brandeis—and in particular with the director of the Steinhardt Center, Len Saxe.

The paper acknowledges Cohen in its foreword, but it then proceeds to cite him more than 25 times in refuting his research.

In particular, Cohen and Saxe have squabbled publicly over intermarriage, with Cohen arguing vehemently that intermarriage is a detriment to Judaism's survival, and Saxe providing research to the contrary—most notably a 2006 survey of Boston-areas families that showed that 60 percent of intermarried couples were raising their children as Jewish.

And here too, the debate seems to boil down to intermarriage, Cohen told JTA.

The annual AJC polls—which Cohen said he helped formulate back in the early 1980s—only questions Jews who identify as Jewish and excludes Jews who say they have no religion, Cohen says, a fact that the AJC confirmed.

This gives a vastly different portrait of Jews than other surveys such as the NJPS, Cohen said.

For instance, the 2000 National Jewish Population Study showed that 38 percent of Jews belong to a synagogue, while the 2000 AJC survey showed that 59 percent of Jews are affiliated.

Though the Steinhardt survey does a good job of showing that Jews who identify as Jewish are indeed staying close to Israel—a notion with which Cohen agrees—it is missing the point that intermarried Jews and their children are falling away from Israel, Cohen said.

"The intermarried and children of the intermarried are dragging down the Jewish people's commitment to Israel," he said. "Commitment among the in-married is as high as it ever was, but we are moving to two populations."

He added: "Their data cannot refute our contention that intermarriage—among other factors—is bringing about disengagement from Israel, both by its impact on the Jewish spouses, and by its impact upon the growing number of Jewish children who are the products of intermarried couples.".

Sasson said that his paper controlled with certain variable to account for intermarriage. He added that in 2000, 15 percent of respondants to the AJC survey were intermarried and that in 2005, 22.5 percent were intermarried. Even among the intermarried, the sentiment toward Israel has remained the same, he said.

But, he said, the intermarriage factor is not so simple. Much of what will happen in the future regarding sentiment toward Israel from the intermarried community will depend on education and trips to Israel, such as birthright.

"Steven even told me," Sasson said, referring to Cohen, "it's birthright against intermarriage." ■

Contestants look to past to transform future

By Jacob Berkman

WALTHAM, Mass. (JTA)—It was the African-American writer James Baldwin who said, "Know from whence you came. If you know whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go."

Now five Jews who have undertaken the mission to redirect the history of the Jews seem to have taken his message to heart.

Brandeis University, in conjunction with the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Foundation, is offering a two-year visiting professorship, including a six-figure salary and a book deal, to the person whose idea for a written work can make Jews best rethink how they think about themselves.

From 231 contestants Brandeis chose five finalists: two noted authors, one of whom is also a reality television show host, a Harvard doctoral candidate, a 20-something publisher of a startup magazine and a journalist.

Their proposals, which they presented Sunday at a Brandeis symposium, all seemed to echo Baldwin's idea: if Judaism is going to adapt to the 21st century and beyond, Jews in some way need to learn from their past. The question is, how?

The finalists have their own prescription:

For **Ariel Beery,** the publisher of the startup magazine *PresenTense* and the founder of the PresenTense Institute for Creative Zionism, the answer is learning how Jews of the past adapted their Judaism to their contemporary societies and recognizing that Jews today must adapt to the latest technological advancements.

"These shifts were elemental in figuring out what it means to be Jewish," Beery said. "In doing so they learned from the best outside and imitated inside in order to bring Jewish content to new vehicles through technology."

His book proposal, "Translating Judaism for the Post-Digital Age," focuses on how Jews must adapt Judaism to the age of online social networking, where Facebook rules.

Beery, at 28 the youngest of the finalists, envisions a Jewish network based on building Jewish "nodes" in major cities throughout the world where Jews can live, work and create together, sharing ideas. Then, Jews must work with existing Jewish infrastructure to develop an online platform to share these ideas.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, who is known for his book *Kosher Sex* and reality show *Shalom in the Home,* would focus his proposed work, "Bringing Judaism to the Mainstream," on elucidating what innovations Jews have given the world—monotheism, Jesus' Golden Rule and democracy, for instance.

Jews and the world have forgotten that modernity is based on Judaism, as "every idea we have given the world has been not just adopted but co-opted," he said.

Recognizing the Jewish roots of these innovations, Boteach said, can be a source of pride and a reason to identify.

In addition to retracing these innovations to their Jewish roots, he hopes to prescribe ways in which the modern world can adopt other Jewish values, such as strong family values. As an example, Boteach would like American society to adopt Friday night family dinners—based on Shabbat observance—to help restore quality family time to a morally decaying America.

Anita Diamant, the author of the best-selling novel *The Red Tent,* believes that Jews must learn that Judaism did not die in the past and that modern American Judaism is very much alive and teeming with growth and innovation.

Her proposed book, "Minhag America," would be a description of that growth and perhaps a prescription for how to spread ideas that work.

Diamant has 17 chapter ideas that would focus on issues that illustrate what is happening in the Jewish world today. Among the headings she has chosen are "Power to the People: Lifelong Jewish Learning for Everyone," "Counting Women In," "Art is Not Idolatry," "Pop Culture, Grin and Bear it" and "Authentic Spirituality."

"There has never been a better time to be Jewish," Diamant said. "After a little more than 350 years on this continent, we find ourselves taking a thrilling, not-so-risk-free leap into the next, living through changes as profound and unpredictable as those presented by rabbinic Judaism when it emerged."

Yehuda Kurtzer, who is finishing his doctorate in Jewish history at Harvard University, also would describe the need for Jews to reclaim their past in his proposal, "Shuva: the Sacred Task of Rebuilding Jewish Memory."

Kurtzer looks at some successful programs, such as the Pardes Institute for Jewish Study in Jerusalem, and sees that they are rooted in Talmud and textual study.

But for most that sense of memory through text is fading because it is too complicated and inaccessible to many. Kurtzer proposes writing a book that is a combined history, theological statement and prescription for programming that can help Jews access their history through text study to create meaningful Jewish experiences.

Saul Singer, the editorial page editor and columnist for the *Jerusalem Post*, also writes in his proposal, "From Survival to Purpose," that Jews must hearken back to their past to move forward. But Singer believes Jews need to return to the model in ancient Israel when they were more proactive in seeking converts to Judaism.

Jews, he says, have lost the notion that they have a mission to be a light unto the nations and to promulgate the idea of one God and one ethic. Instead, because of the persecution they have faced throughout the ages, they have become focused solely on survival.

Singer says it is time to switch back to a mission of purpose, and the key symbol that the Jews have changed focus would be embracing conversion because conversion is a symbol that Jews have something positive to share.

The competition for the Charles R. Bronfman Visiting Chair in Jewish Communal Innovation is modeled after the contest held by Sears Roebuck and Co. chairman Julius Rosenwald in 1929, in which Rosenwald offered $10,000 to the person who could answer the question, "How can Judaism best adjust itself to and influence modern life?"

That was won by Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, for his work "Judaism as a Civilization," which became one of his seminal works and remains influential today.

A committee of Brandeis faculty will deliberate and choose a winner based on the symposium and hourlong interviews with each finalist, which were conducted Sunday before the symposium, said Jonathan Sarna, the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun professor of American Jewish history who chairs the committee.

Sarna did not have a time frame for choosing the winner. But he said if the goal of the competition was to inspire creative Jewish thinking, "even before we make our appointment, we have already succeeded." ■

Spa for the Body and Soul

Laura Berger, special to the WJN

On Sunday, March 9, about 100 women from across the Ann Arbor area braved the cold and attended Spa for the Body and Soul. In its second year, this exciting event opened with a light breakfast and a Health and Beauty boutique where local vendors such as Selo/Shevel Gallery and synagogue gift shops exhibited their wares.

Participants chose from a variety of workshops on topics including: a self-defense workshop called "Enhancing your Inner Strength," a Passover cooking demonstration entitled "Stir Up Your Seder!", a discussion on "Jewish Traditions for the 21st Century Woman," and exercise classes such as "Strength and Stretch" and "Cardio Dance."

Following the workshops a delicious lunch by Chef Cari Kosher Catering was served. The keynote presentation was given by Dr. Geri Markel of Managing Your Mind Consulting. Dr. Markel spoke on the topic of her new book, *Defeating the 8 Demons of Distraction*. She offered the women in attendance some wonderful tips on how to refocus their energy on what is important in their lives, and how to avoid being distracted by the "demons" in their lives, such as technology, disorganization or an overprogrammed schedule. Chaired by Linda Benson, the event truly warmed each woman body, mind and soul.

129th UMS Season 2007|2008

April

Lang Lang piano

WED, APR 2 | 8 PM | Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM

Mozart — Sonata No. 13 in B-Flat Major, K. 333
Schumann — Fantasy in C Major, Op. 17
Six Traditional Chinese Works (from *Dragon Songs* Album)
Granados — *Goyescas* No. 1: Los Requiebros, H. 64 (excerpt)
Liszt/Wagner — Isoldens Liebestod (from *Tristan und Isolde*), S. 447
Liszt — Hungarian Rhapsody, No. 6 in D-Flat Major, S. 244/6

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Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers,** and **WRCJ 90.9 FM.**

A prelude dinner precedes the performance. For more information, contact 734.764.8489.

Brad Mehldau Trio

BRAD MEHLDAU piano
LARRY GRENADIER bass | **JEFF BALLARD** drums
FRI, APR 4 | 8 PM | Michigan Theater

Brad Mehldau first came to international attention as a member of the Joshua Redman Quartet, but his astonishing technique and innovative compositions quickly established him as a star in his own right. "Universally admired as one of the most adventurous pianists to arrive on the jazz scene in years" (*Los Angeles Times*), Mehldau returns for a full evening with his acclaimed trio.

Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM, WDET 101.9 FM, Ann Arbor's 107one,** and **Metro Times.**

Choir of King's College, Cambridge

STEPHEN CLEOBURY director
SAT, APR 5 | 8 PM | Hill Auditorium

Internationally recognized as the pre-eminent representative of the great British church music tradition, the King's College Choir includes 14 adults and 16 boys whose worldwide fame and reputation derive from their many recordings, radio broadcasts, and international tours, all while attending King's College Cambridge on major scholarships. The concert program will include choral works of Purcell, Weelkes, Tomkins, Gibbons, J. S. Bach, Poulenc, Tippett, Britten, and Vaughan Williams as well as solo organ works by Bach and Messiaen.

Supported by **Robert and Pearson Macek** and **The Medical Community.**

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The Only Moving Thing

eighth blackbird

THU, APR 10 | 7 PM & 9:30 PM
[NOTE NEW TIMES & VENUE]
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

eight blackbird's kinetic program, *The Only Moving Thing*, presents the ensemble at its most vivid and theatrical. The program features two new works, including a UMS co-commission: Steve Reich's *Double Sextet*, which features the contemporary ensemble performing live and pre-recorded simultaneously, and an intrepid collaboration between maverick composers David Lang, Michael Gordon, and Julia Wolfe entitled singing in the dead of night. The six-member ensemble studied at Oberlin and has spent 12 days this year working with students at the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

PROGRAM

Reich — Double Sextet (2007)
Lang/Gordon/Wolfe — singing in the dead of night (UMS Co-Commission) (2007)

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers,** and **Metro Times.**

Lila Downs

SAT, APR 12 | 4 PM | Michigan Theater

Creating strongly layered music in which blues and jazz cohabitate with rap and *ranchera*, and honkytonk swings alongside romantic *boleros*, Lila Downs' songs delve deep into the hearts and minds of common people, invoking struggles, lost loves, and legends. She performs her own compositions and also taps into the vast reservoir of native Mesoamerican music, singing songs in the native Indian languages of Mexico, including Mixtec, Zapotec, Maya, and Nahuatl.

Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts.**

Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM** and **Ann Arbor's 107one.**

Qawwali Music of Pakistan

Mehr and Sher Ali

FRI, APR 18 | 8 PM | Rackham Auditorium

Reminiscent of the fervent, soul-baring spirit of American gospel music, *Qawwali*, the ecstatic devotional music of the Sufis, uses Sufi poetry, strong, rapturous voices, and hand-clapping rhythms to express the elation of divine love. Spiritual in essence, *Qawwali* music goes beyond orthodox religion. Musical descendents of the late *Qawwali* master Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Mehr and Sher Ali are masters of an art form that brings harmony and peace to the soul.

An Evening with

Bobby McFerrin, Chick Corea, and Jack DeJohnette

SAT, APR 19 | 8 PM | Hill Auditorium

Chick Corea's four-decade career is the stuff of jazz lore — his groups are hotbeds of imagination, seething with the joy of making music while creating influential, limit-stretching musical experiences. Of course, the same could be said of fellow Miles Davis alum Jack DeJohnette, who last appeared in Ann Arbor leading his Latin Project, and of Bobby McFerrin, one of the natural wonders of the music world whose work encompasses both classical and jazz through vocal performance, conducting, and composition. This sensational trio comes together for the first time for an unforgettable night of jazz.

Sponsored by KeyBank

Hosted by **Dennis and Ellie Serras** and **Leo and Kathy Legatski and Elastizell Corporation of America.**

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Beethoven Sonata Project Concerts 3 & 4

András Schiff

SUN, APR 20, 4 PM | TUE, APR 22, 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

The UMS season closes with the second two-concert installment of András Schiff's Beethoven Sonata Project featuring all 32 of Beethoven's piano sonatas performed over a two-year period. Schiff returns for four concerts next season to complete the cycle, which is being repeated only in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.

The Sunday performance is sponsored by Miller Canfield

The Tuesday performance is supported by **Gil Omenn and Martha Darling.**

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

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2007/2008 Season Media Partner WEMU 89.1

Bulgaria's rescue of its Jews remembered

By Daniel S. Mariaschin

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Sixty-five years ago last week in Bulgaria, a rare chapter in human courage took place. It wasn't an uprising of arms, but rather one of simple decency and respect for the lives of one's neighbors. It was the rescue of Bulgaria's 48,000 Jews from deportation and certain death in Nazi concentration camps.

The Bulgarian church leadership provided a moral underpinning to the effort to stop the deportations.

In the midst of the maelstrom and carnage that was World War II and the Holocaust, how this singular act of heroism took place can be explained only by the broad involvement of Bulgarians at every level of society who joined the effort. Members of parliament, physicians, lawyers, the leadership of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, intellectuals and ordinary citizens were the heroes of this story. Their example should be looked upon today in a world increasingly infected by intolerance and bigotry.

In 1943, the Kingdom of Bulgaria was an ally of the Third Reich, which supported its claims to a "Greater Bulgaria," including lands in Macedonia and Thrace. As the war churned, the Nazi killing machine by that time had murdered millions of Jews. Though not under Nazi occupation, the Bulgarians established a special office for "The Jewish Problem," and as early as 1940 adopted sweeping anti-Semitic legislation—the infamous "Law for the Defense of the Nation," which established forced labor camps and imposed the wearing of the yellow star.

When the Nazi ambassador to Bulgaria, Adolf Heinz Beckerle, demanded the deportation of Bulgarian Jews to death camps in Poland, it must have been a foregone conclusion in Berlin that his insistence would be heeded. Indeed, the commissariat for Jewish affairs drew up plans that included rounding up Jews and designating assembly points from where the deportations would take place.

Ordinary Bulgarians already had a chilling inkling of what was to come. More than 11,000 Macedonian and Thracian Jews living under Bulgarian military occupation were herded into cattle cars and deported to the camps on trains that traveled through Bulgarian territory. Bulgarians surely must have seen the utter suffering of the victims and concluded the same could occur inside the country's prewar borders.

Word spread quickly about the deportation plans, motivating a campaign of defiance so swift and so effective that it surprised the authorities. Though led at first by Deputy Speaker of Parliament Dimitar Peshev, it spread to nearly every sector of society. The Bulgarian church was among the most active in defending the Jewish minority, with Metropolitan Kliment of Stara Zagora explaining that "we cannot stay indifferent to the fate of the persecuted Jewish minority because we would be condemned by God."

In cities and towns across Bulgaria, citizens worked to upend the racist Nazi dictates. Ultimately the orders were never carried out, prompting Beckerle to cable back to Berlin, "But they are tied by the mentality of the Bulgarian people that lacks the ideological enlightenment that we have. The Bulgarian, who was raised with Armenians, Greeks and Gypsies, doesn't see in the Jews any flaws justifying taking special measures against them."

Certainly there are many stories of individual heroism by non-Jews to save Jews during the Holocaust, but nowhere was such a broad base of the population part of an entire community's rescue. At a time when wartime collaborators elsewhere in Europe competed with each other to join in the persecution of the Jews, many Bulgarians were lining up to reject that very persecution. Where some European churches were either complicit in this tragedy, or at best passive, the Bulgarian church leadership provided a moral underpinning to the effort to stop the deportations.

The Bulgarian rescue story, like that of the Danes, only serves to highlight what might have been elsewhere in Europe. Bulgarians, horrified by the thought that their friends and neighbors – perhaps the teacher or the shoemaker or tailor – might be taken from their midst and sent to an uncertain future, took matters into their own hands by protesting and refusing to comply with a racist decree. Others, like Peshev, who saw the inherent evil of Nazism and its pursuit of its helpless victims, rallied to defend a community he saw not only as a Jewish minority but as Bulgarian.

In their collective act of defiance, the Bulgarian people demonstrated that it is possible to stand up to the worst form of evil.

Indeed, maybe that is the secret of the success of the rescue in Bulgaria – that Jews were not seen as aliens in society but rather an organic part of it.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the rescue in 2003, I attended a commemoration ceremony in the town of Kyustendil, a provincial town that was fiercely defiant against the deportation order. At the conclusion of the program, an elderly Bulgarian woman in the crowd rushed to an Israeli official wanting to know if her childhood friends were living in Israel. She had not seen them since they left after the war.

In their collective act of defiance, the Bulgarian people demonstrated that it is possible to stand up to the worst form of evil. They did it under the most difficult and harrowing of circumstances.

Each generation unfortunately brings new tests to the fore. Today it is the killing in Darfur; tomorrow it can be somewhere else. The lessons of 1943 are as relevant today as they were then in a distant land and at the darkest moment in modern history. ■

Daniel S. Mariaschin is the executive vice president of B'nai B'rith International

Leader of Darfur project wins a $100,000 humanitarian prize

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA)—The simplest innovations sometimes lead to the greatest rewards, as Rachel Andres learned this week when she was named the 2008 recipient of the $100,000 Charles Bronfman Prize.

The annual prize is awarded to a person or team of people younger than 50 whose Jewish values spark humanitarian efforts that help improve the world.

Andres in her work provides succor to some of the most helpless and brutalized people in the world—10,000 refugee families, mostly fatherless, who have escaped the massacres in Darfur

The genocide in the Sudanese province, now in its fifth year, has claimed an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 civilians. Some 2.5 million refugees, predominantly women and children, have been displaced.

For the past two years Andres, 45, has directed the Solar Cooker Project of Jewish World Watch, which has expanded from a small Los Angeles base to synagogues, churches, schools, Girl Scout troops, civic organizations and individual contributors across the United States, as well as parts of Canada and Australia. The solar cooker concept is an elegantly simple response to a terrifying fact of life facing the women and young girls in the Iridimi and Touloum refugee camps on the Sudan-Chad border.

While foraging for scarce firewood outside the camps for basic cooking and water purification, the women and girls were in constant danger of gang rapes by roving bands of Arab militiamen.

If the women could somehow find an alternative source of heating within the camps, they could largely eliminate the assaults, reasoned Andres and her colleagues.

Her answer was a sun-powered cooker, made of cardboard and aluminum foil, at a cost of $15 each.

Andres discovered a small Dutch company to furnish the material, which is shipped to the refugee camps. Doubling the mitzvah, the cookers are assembled in small camp plants by the women and girls older than 14, who get paid for the work and become income earners for their families.

Some 15,000 cookers have been distributed, which have also proven an environmental boon, slowing the deforestation of the region and cutting down the time women have to spend over open brick fireplaces.

Since each family needs two of the $15 cookers, Jewish World Watch has pitched its donation appeal at $30. More than $1 million has been received to date from some 20,000 contributors, mainly in $30 donations, though there have been larger gifts.

In the Los Angeles area, nearly 60 synagogues, from Reconstructionist to Orthodox, have joined up with Jewish World Watch.

As Andres was talking to a reporter Monday, she interrupted herself to announce jubilantly, "I just got an e-mail from the United Methodist Church in Seattle and its members are sending us $3,200."

Andres, born and raised in Dallas, has been an activist since graduating from UCLA with a degree in political science. She credits her paternal grandmother for her sense of Jewish responsibility toward others, regardless of race or religion.

"Bubbe left Suwalki in northern Poland in 1919 and came to Texas," she said. "Most of her family stayed behind and 22 relatives perished in the Holocaust."

Andres said her grandmother had three sons, worked in her husband's grocery store, wrote four books of Yiddish poetry, met new immigrants at the airport and helped settle them, and was involved in the Arbeter Ring, the Workmen's Circle.

"Her legacy to me was her sense of social justice. She was larger than life," Andres said.

In following that inspiration, Andres worked for 10 years at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles as the director of its Commission on Cults and Missionaries, and subsequently as a volunteer for AIDS Project Los Angeles and in various other projects, including the the Museum for the History of Polish Jews.

Andres and her husband, Ben Tysch, the chief administrator for the regional Planned Parenthood, live in Los Angeles with their two children, Ezra, 10, and Rebecca, 6. Andres serves on the board of Temple Israel of Hollywood, a Reform congregation.

Asked how she manages her many responsibilities, Andres laughs.

"I really don't know, I'll have to think about that," she says, adding after a pause, "It's a bit of a juggling job, but I'm focused on whatever I'm doing. I try to give it my all."

Andres says she will use the $100,000 prize money "to expand the solar cooker project to more camps and to publicize the desperate needs of the refugees."

She and her colleagues are asked sometimes why they spend their energies on the suffering in Darfur rather than focusing on specifically Jewish and Israeli concerns.

Andres agrees with the answer provided by Rabbi Harold Schulweis, the Jewish World Watch co-founder with Janice Kamenir-Resnick.

"Some people say about the Darfur genocide that it's an internal matter, that reports have been exaggerated," said Schulweis, the spiritual leader of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino. "These are the same excuses we heard during the Holocaust.

"There is always an alternative to passive complicity. If we now turn aside, that would be our deepest humiliation."

The Charles Bronfman Prize was established by the children of the Canadian philanthropist in honor of his 70th birthday.

Andres is the fourth person and the first woman to receive the prize, which will be formally awarded May 6 in New York.

One member of the prize selection committee, Israel's former minister of justice, Dan Meridor, summed up the basis for this year's choice.

"The thread woven through Rachel's life and professional career is that of uplifting others, especially the neediest, so that all individuals may live to their fullest," Meridor said. "Caring for others is among the highest Jewish ideals, and Rachel's work fully embodies that ideal." ■

How kosher certification is made in China

By Alison Klayman

BEIJING (JTA)—As the sun rises on a crisp March morning, a van from the Hebei Dongfang Green Tree Food Company arrives at Rabbi Nosson Rodin's home in this Chinese capital city.

During the four-hour journey to the company's factory in Shenzhou, Rodin calls for a break to recite his morning prayers. He wraps his tefillin at a rest stop as curious truck drivers look on, then gets back into the vehicle.

For the Amidah prayer, the van pulls off the dusty road and Rodin consults the small green compass on his watchband. He needs to pray facing west, toward Jerusalem.

It's all part of a routine day for Rodin, 24, a Chabad-Lubavitch emissary who does Jewish outreach in Beijing and also travels the countryside performing kosher inspections in China for U.S. companies.

With the kosher certification of more than 300 food factories in China, each producing multiple products, America's largest kosher-certification company, the Orthodox Union, has more than doubled the number of certifications it does in China just in the past two years.

The kosher food market here has experienced tremendous growth. Half of China's $2.5 billion in exports of food ingredients to the United States are kosher, up 150 percent from two years ago, according to Bloomberg News.

Green Tree first looked into kosher certification in 2005, about the same time the company began exporting its products. "We met a Jewish customer who wore a small hat on his head," recalls Lucy Zhang, Rodin's interpreter from Green Tree. "He asked us if our food was kosher. He explained if it was kosher, then Jewish people could eat it."

"The only way to explain kosher to a company here is to explain it's for export," says Rabbi David Markowitz of Shatz Kosher Services, a kosher certification label. Kosher certification costs $3,000 to $5,000 per year on average, Markowitz says. In exchange for access to the $11.5 billion kosher food market in the United States, many Chinese companies are willing to pay the price.

Markowitz opened Shatz Kosher Services in China five years ago and recently added a location in Vietnam. The rabbi lives in Israel but spends about two weeks each month working in China. Aside from its office near Hong Kong, Shatz also has one in China's Shandong Province, where many fruits and vegetables are grown and processed.

Canned, frozen and dried fruits and vegetables are the most common kosher products from China, but many chemical additives and finished products like candy also are certified here.

Providing kosher supervision means paying strict attention to a product's components. Instead of conducting scientific health tests, kosher inspectors check a company's compliance with rules about its ingredients and preparation.

Most factories have a few scheduled inspections each year. In situations where sweeping changes are required to make a product kosher, kashrut services usually decline to certify.

During his visit to the Green Tree plant, Rodin is as interested in what lies behind closed doors as he is with what's on the apple chip production line.

He insists on opening the doors, even inspecting a flattened cardboard box with an unfamiliar label that lies discarded in the corner. As possible evidence of unaccounted-for ingredients that could be non-kosher, the discarded box is suspect. "Since they don't really understand what I am looking for, they don't know what to hide," Rodin says.

Although kosher certification has been around for years in China, the landscape of food quality control in the country is undergoing drastic change. Last September, following intense negative publicity in the United States and elsewhere about the discovery of tainted food products, Chinese regulators began requiring companies to use numbered codes on packaging to identify the plants of origin for products. This way, all ingredients could be traced to their sources.

The Orthodox Union began using a similar oversight system in China as far back as 2001, a representative here said.

Most Chinese who work with kosher supervisors still know little about kosher laws, but no longer are they completely ignorant about the practices of their Jewish colleagues.

Rabbi Amos Benjamin of the Baltimore-based Star-K kosher certification company has been certifying products in China as kosher since 1987. "Ten years ago when you visited a factory here, they had generally no idea what kosher certification was," he said. "Now, 10 years down the track, they understand more."

Though the food companies under inspection provide English-speaking interpreters, some of the rabbis here have picked up basic Mandarin. Benjamin, who speaks several languages, says Chinese is the most difficult to learn. Perhaps it's because his conversations in Chinese are so unusual. "I don't know the last time you sat around the coffee table discussing techniques of fermentation, but I can do that in Chinese," he says.

Not everything runs smoothly in the kosher business in China. Markowitz recalls that five years ago, one of his most popular certified products, canned mushrooms, ran into trouble when insects were found in the mushrooms.

"We once brought from China to Israel 350 containers of mushrooms," he said. But after the insect trouble, "that whole industry shut down. One of the main things of kashrut is to keep no insects in the food."

Yossi Gehardy, an Israeli living in China, is the general manager of the Solbar Ningbo Food Company, which produces soy proteins and regularly is inspected by the O.U. Solbar is one of several kosher food companies in Ningbo.

"Kashrut should not be an obstacle to come to China to set up a plant," Gehardy says.

For the rabbis that travel throughout China providing kosher supervision, the oft-asked question is what they themselves eat.

Benjamin says it's hard to explain kashrut to Chinese hosts who insist on treating the visiting rabbi to a banquet lunch.

"Many afternoons I sat there with just water and an apple at a business lunch," he says.

More often, rabbis travel with canned foods and stock up on kosher products at import markets in big cities like Shanghai and Beijing. There is even a kosher restaurant in Beijing.

For his visit to the Green Tree factory, Rodin packed peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch. He came home with a box of apple chips for his family, and his wife, Miriam, made a spaghetti dinner with tomato paste from a factory Rodin himself had certified in Xinjiang province.

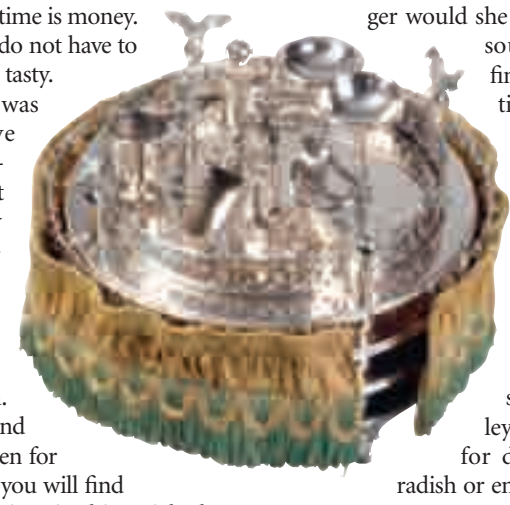
The next morning, Rodin took an early flight to Guangzhou to do it all again. ■

Passover food spotlight—from soup to brisket to cake

Judy Cohen, food editor

Why is this night different from all other nights? Don't ask!" That was printed on a Passover apron I once owned. This is the holiday that is mixed with great excitement and great anxiety, a lot of hard work and a lot of love. Once we were slaves in Egypt, now we sometimes feel like slaves in the kitchen.

Many years ago, before I embarked on a 20-year real estate career, I spent several years as a kosher caterer. Once, I prepared a second seder for 200 people (I had help, of course). In catering, time is money. I found that recipes do not have to be complicated to be tasty.



As a Realtor, it was necessary to have quick and easy recipes too. It was almost guaranteed that any time I wanted personal time such as preparing for Passover, there would be clients requiring immediate attention. I needed to be fast and efficient in the kitchen for both careers. I hope you will find helpful hints and recipes in this article that will aid in your preparation and add to the celebration for you and those who share your table at Passover.

Menus for Passover require all the traditional foods, both those prescribed for the seder plate and those that each family member considers essential from year to year, perhaps those made in years past by one's mother or bubbie, father or zayde. Despite the need for tradition, I have found that many people are also looking for one or more items that are unique. For some, this is a time to impress family and friends with something special. In addition, there are usually more people at the table than one would have at any other time of the year. With Passover lasting eight days and with many women (the traditional, but no longer the exclusive Pesach chefs) working outside the home, what to serve the rest of the week is also important.

Preparing almost everything in one long day, and then relying on mix and match leftovers for the rest of the week has always worked for me. Begin in the morning with those things that take the longest to cook, such as the brisket, which can then be sliced and reheated later. Recruit help from friends (let them bring their favorites with the recipes). Enlist the children wherever possible, even the three-year-old, self-proclaimed "good helper man." This is an equally important tradition and will become part of the memories that they will relate to their children.

In recent years there have been two additional factors to consider for the seder meal. More and more people are becoming vegetarians and/or health conscious. Long gone in many families, including my own, is shmaltz (rendered chicken fat) for frying or for putting into the traditional matzo balls for added flavor. It has been replaced by olive or canola oil. Nevertheless, I had a women tell me that using schmaltz a few times a year was a big part of her tradition. In recent years Manischewitz and others have responded to the health mania by manufacturing whole wheat matzo, and this year I even found whole wheat matzo meal. One recent Shabbat I made my usual matzo ball recipe but substituted the whole wheat. To be on the safe side, I also made a batch of the regular kind, and this is what I recommend doing. My 16-year-old granddaughter advised me: "Bubbie, some traditions you shouldn't mess with!" and some others at the table gave me strange looks, but those who tasted them gave unanimous approval.

As to vegetarian, my youngest daughter announced several years ago that she was about to become "a Jewish Mother's nightmare." No longer would she partake of the chicken soup—now I needed to find a vegetarian alternative. Brisket? Forget it! I now also have two out of four grandchildren who are vegetarian. What's a mother/bubbie to do?

Briefly, for those who don't know, the traditional seder plate includes: roasted lamb shank, roasted egg, parsley (salt water on the side for dipping twice), horseradish or endive for the bitter herb, charoset (chopped apple, nuts and wine). I like to make a large quantity of charoset and use it as a side dish during the entire week. It serves as an excellent antidote to the effects of too much matzo. I think you know what I mean. In addition you will need three matzos placed on a separate plate and covered, plus more on another plate to pass.

Vegetarians may replace the lamb shank with olives, grapes and unfermented grains. According to The Jewish Vegetarian Year Cookbook, by Roberta Kalechofsky and Rosa Rasiel, this is based on the passage in Deuteronomy 24:20-25:4, which commands the second shaking of the olive trees and grape vines to be left for the poor. It also speaks of compassion for oppressed creatures. Some will use a beet to replace the shank bone. A partial menu for vegetarians might include vegetable soup, roasted veggie matzo pizza, mock chicken liver pate.

Traditional menus for many families, including ours, is as follows: gefilte fish, chicken soup with matzo balls, salad, chicken or roast turkey with matzo stuffing , brisket, veggie salad, potato kugel or mashed sweet potatoes, steamed veggies and other side dishes according to various family traditions, Passover rolls, and ending of course with fruit and a marvelous dessert. This may be the one that will have guests asking for the recipe.

I am often asked, especially by my daughters' friends, if there is an easy way to make chicken soup, turkey and/or brisket. So I will provide here the simplest and quickest recipes I know. I was at first surprised that so many found these items intimidating, but since I have been asked so often, I assume it is a more common problem than I thought. These recipes also take far less time and trouble than the usual ones. As for matzo balls, I find the recipe on the box of Manischewitz matzo meal is the easiest. These come out between fluffy and firm so add or subtract a little matzo meal for your preference.

Here are some other quick and easy recipes that I have discovered and used over the years.

Easy brisket

brisket
3 cups of carrots
2–3 cups of celery
1 or 2 onions, sliced
equal amounts of grape jelly and ketchup
lemon

Preheat oven to 450°. Season the brisket on both sides with onion salt and garlic salt. Add carrots and celery, chopped in fairly large pieces, and onions. Add equal amounts of grape jelly and ketchup in quantity sufficient to cover brisket completely or nearly so. Squeeze the juice of ½–1 lemon over this mixture. (At other times of the year, you may use beer and chili sauce.) Cover tightly with heavy duty aluminum foil, crimping edges to insure tight fit. Bake for 2–3 hours or more depending on size of brisket or until tender. When checking for tenderness, remove the edge of the foil carefully so as not to be burned by the steam and re-cover tightly if more time is needed. Cool the brisket and cut with a sharp knife into chunks. Replace the brisket into the sauce and transfer to an oven-proof casserole dish to reheat and serve. It may be reheated in the microwave.

Easy chicken soup *–The way my mom made it.*

1 or 2 whole roasting or stewing chickens.
1 onion
3 cups carrots cut in large pieces
3 cups celery cut in large pieces
salt

Wash chickens inside and out. Stuff each cavity with one large whole onion peeled. Place in large pot, just big enough to fit chickens. Season generously with salt and fill the pot with enough water to cover chickens and a few inches more. Add carrots and celery. Bring water to a boil and then turn down heat and simmer partially covered for about 1–1 ½ hours or until chicken is tender. This makes a very rich and tasty soup. You may chill it and remove some of the fat, but leave a little for flavor. You may add other seasonings or just minced parsley to your taste. Use may use chicken soup in place of water in your matzo balls.

Sephardic charoset

12 cups chopped walnuts (3 pounds)
3 pounds apples
10 ounce box of golden raisins
one package of figs, chopped
one package of chopped dates (unsugared)
one bottle Concord grape wine
12 oz. honey
juice of one lemon
cinnamon
nutmeg

In an extra large utility bowl, place chopped walnuts after chopping a little bit finer in the food processor. Use the pulse on and off so they don't get too fine or put in Ziploc bag and hit a few times with a rolling pin. Add one whole bag of MacIntosh or other apples, peeled and cored. Cut in quarters and chop in food processor. Pulse on/off so they don't get too fine. To the apple and nut mixture, add golden raisins, figs, dates, wine, honey, lemon juice. Add cinnamon and nutmeg to taste. Mix thoroughly. Serves a crowd and then you can have it all week too. This gets even better through the week as it marinates.

Lower fat passover rolls

From *Passover Favorites by Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Shalom*, Oak Park, Michigan

2 cups matzo meal (could be whole wheat)
½ cup oil
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon sugar
6 egg whites
1 teaspoon onion powder (optional)
1 large egg
1 cup water

Combine matzo meal with salt, sugar and onion powder in large bowl. Bring oil and water to a boil. Add matzo meal mixture and mix well with a fork. Beat in whole egg, add egg whites two at a time, beating thoroughly after each addition. Allow mixture to stand 15 minutes. Spray cookie sheet with cooking spray. Dip hands in bowl of cold water, then shape dough into rolls and place on cookie sheet. Bake at 375° for 50 minutes or until golden brown.

My mom's Passover fudge bars (Dairy)

1 cup shortening (or ½ cup butter and ½ cup shortening)
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
½ cup milk
½ cup cake meal
8 tablespoons cocoa
½ teaspoon salt
juice of 1 orange
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Cream shortening mixture with sugar. Add eggs, one at a time. Alternate milk with cake meal. Add cocoa and salt. Mix in orange juice and chopped nuts. Bake 30 minutes at 350° in a greased 9" x 13" pan.

Frosting: ¼ cup cocoa
¼ cup milk
¼ cup butter
1 cup sugar

Bring just to boil stirring with whisk till butter melts and ingredients are blended. Remove from heat and continue beating until cooled. Spread frosting on bars.

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Humanity the heart of the matter for Kushner in his writing, Judaism

By Ben Harris

NATICK, Mass. (JTA)—At 72, Rabbi Harold Kushner, the best-selling author of "When Bad Things Happen to Good People," leads a life that most of his rabbinic colleagues can only dream of.

Having left the full-time rabbinate more than two decades ago, his days are largely spent writing and lecturing—or as he put it recently, doing the rabbi stuff he enjoys and leaving the rest to others.

"I feel very blessed," Kushner told JTA last week in an interview conducted as the last light of a chilly March afternoon filtered through floor-to-ceiling windows in the rabbi's study of Temple Israel, the Conservative synagogue in this Boston suburb where he arrived as a young rabbi in 1966.

It was the day before he traveled to New York to receive the Jewish Book Council's Lifetime Achievement Award, a dormant prize revived with him in mind.

But the author of more than a half-dozen books, several of them best-sellers, is not without regrets—a topic he addresses in his most recent book, *Overcoming Life's Disappointments,* published in 2006.

Asked about his own misfortunes, Kushner cited his son's early death and having the woman he wanted to marry choose someone else. He also recalled losing out on the pulpit of a larger congregation.

Kushner told a story about a Protestant minister who spent his career waiting for his colleagues to die or be caught in a scandal so he could take over their church. The minister, who worked in a working-class community, had grown to resent his congregants whom he saw as emblematic of his own failure to move up in the world.

"That was an eye-opening story for me because I saw a certain amount of myself in that," Kushner said. "Maybe without the jealousy, without wishing ill to my colleagues, because I was happy where I was. But there was a sense that I didn't really appreciate the people here. I've come to appreciate them more, to be much more sensitive to the things that hurt them."

Sensitivity to the hardships of others is a hallmark of Kushner's writing, which first gained acclaim after the publication of his second and best-known book, "When Bad Things Happen to Good People," a meditation on human suffering inspired by his son's death at 14 from a rare genetic illness.

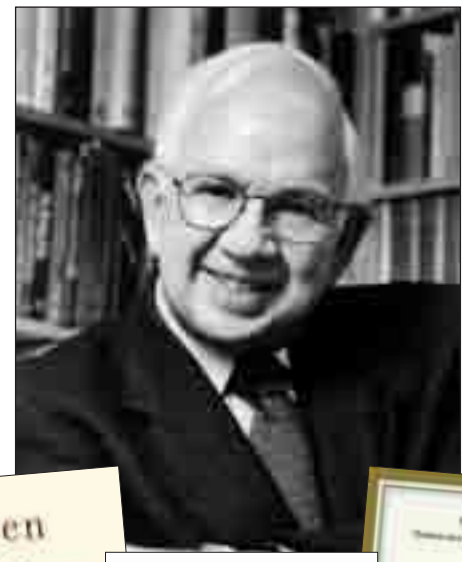
He has gone on to author more than a half-dozen other books, several of them best-sellers, and was an editor of the Conservative movement's 2001 Etz Hayim Torah commentary. In 1999 he was named clergyman of the year, and in 2004 he read from the book of Isaiah at the state funeral of Ronald Reagan.

Long popular in Christian circles, Kushner has been seen as more of a mixed blessing among more traditional Jews.

He says he gets a better reception from Mormons than from Orthodox Jews, and it's not hard to see why. Kushner sees the world through the prism of human needs, and if that means taking liberties with Jewish theology to make people feel better, he's more than willing.

"I always thought Judaism was at its best when it not only looked at text, but when it looked at people," he said.

Kushner committed his gravest offense,



as the Orthodox see it, in "When Bad Things Happen to Good People." He labored to reconcile the twin Jewish beliefs in God's omnipotence and his benevolence with the reality of human suffering, ultimately sacrificing the former to salvage the latter.

Kushner's God is limited in his ability to control the random hazards of life that result in tragedy on a widespread and a smaller scale, like the Holocaust and the death of a child.

It is a view that runs afoul of traditional Jewish teaching about God.

The Orthodox, who Kushner says feel obliged to defend every writing by an Orthodox rabbi, accuse him of propounding un-Jewish ideas. Among the top Google hits for "Harold Kushner" is an article from an Orthodox Web site titled "Why Harold Kushner is Wrong."

Remarkably, Kushner himself concedes the point, acknowledging that he may be wrong about God. But drawing on the thousands of letters he has received over the years from grateful readers, the vast majority of them non-Jewish, he maintains that his writing has helped restore faith, return people to prayer and permit them to heal.

"I don't know if I'm correct theologically. I don't know the reality of God," Kushner said. "What I do know is my book makes people feel better. It gives them back the ability to go to shul or to church and pray and to believe in God, to believe that God is on their side. It restores to them the legitimacy of outrage when something tragic has happened to them."

The book's influence is undeniable and has made Kushner a sought-after expert on God and human suffering.

"It started a whole trend in writing," Carolyn Hessel, the director of the Jewish Book Council, said of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People.*

"I think that Rabbi Kushner was successful because he catered to everybody," she said. "He reached everybody's heart. It wasn't just the Jewish heart. He reached the heart of every human being."

Kushner was born in Brooklyn and educated in the New York borough's public schools. After his ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1960, he went to court to have his military exemption waived.

For two years he served as a military chaplain in Oklahoma before assuming his first pulpit, as an assistant rabbi at another Temple Israel, this one in Great Neck, New York.

Four years later he came to Natick, where he has remained. In 1983, with his book a best-seller and demanding more of his time, Kushner cut back to part-time at the synagogue. Seven years later he stepped down to devote himself fully to writing.

The congregation, believing their then-55-year-old rabbi too young to be named rabbi emeritus, made Kushner its rabbi laureate, a title held by only a handful of American spiritual leaders.

Last month, Kushner turned his human-centered approach to the challenges facing the Conservative movement in an article titled "Conservative Judaism in an Age of Democracy" published in Conservative Judaism magazine.

An early and outspoken supporter of the new JTS chancellor, Arnold Eisen, Kushner told JTA that as a sociologist, Eisen is also disposed to see Judaism through the eyes of those who actually live it and not solely from the perspective of an academic—a frequent criticism of Eisen's predecessors.

In the article, Kushner argues that in an era of personal autonomy, where the Jewish community lacks the ability to enforce communal standards the way it did in the shtetl, Jews must be given positive reasons to choose observance.

Conservative Judaism has withered, in part, because it still treats mitzvot as commandments, Kushner said. Instead, it should market itself as the movement that satisfies the deep human need for community and purpose.

"My seminary training was all about Jewish answers. My congregational experience has been more in terms of Jewish questions," Kushner said. "I start with the anguish, the uncertainty, the lack of fulfillment I find in the lives of the very nice, decent people who are in this synagogue and who are my readers. And Judaism is the answer.

"How do I live a fulfilling life is the question. And Judaism is the answer." ■

April 2008

Tuesday 1

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. (new time), $4/session or $10/3 sessions; The Bible in its Time: Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East with Lisbeth Fried, 10 a.m.–noon; The State of World Jewry, 11 a.m.; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Interfaith Exchange: EMU Hillel. 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Student Catholic Parish.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussion in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at U-M Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 2

Nutritious Food Series: JCC Early Childhood Center. Series of seminars to help get new insights on how to offer kids delicious, nutritious meals. Tips on finding time for breakfast, packing lunch, offering snacks and reducing soda consumption. Learn to enjoy nutritious foods. Today's topic is "Lunchbox–Not Peanut Butter Sandwich Again." $20/session. 7–8 p.m. For information, contact Noreen DeYoung at ndeyoung@umich.edu.

Game Night: EMU Hillel–FYSH. 5:30–7 p.m. in Room 352, EMU Student Center.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *Beyond Belief* offers reflections on the Jewish faith, reason and experience. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 3

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

Tot Play Group: TBE. 9:30 a.m. To join, contact Ginger Derrow at ginger.derrow@gmail.com. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Music Performance: JCC Seniors. Celebration with cake and ice cream for all with April birthdays at 12:30 p.m., followed by performance at 1 p.m. of musical group *Winter* for seniors and small number of JCC students . Families of seniors with birthdays also welcome.

Mobilizing Faith Voices for Peace in Iraq: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Join with other spiritually-rooted peace activists to explore organizing religious perspectives to promote peace in Iraq. Joe Reilly will kick off the evening with music, followed by discussion and action planning, including organizing a Peace Sabbath series and supporting wounded veterans. Held at Wesley Foundation Lounge, First United Methodist Church, 602 East Huron at the corner of State Street. For more details, call 663-1870 or email chuck@icpj.net.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 4

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

First Friday Shabbat: JCS. Two concurrent services, one for adults and young adults and another for young children. Recently rewritten observance is designed for adults and young adults who want to slow down and take time at the end of the week to relax and reflect, with occasional speakers and discussions. Children's observance, led by Tzofim (aides), begins with a short and upbeat celebration with lots of singing and jumping, followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner for everyone. Today's potluck theme is Eastern Europe. Bring a vegetarian Eastern European dish to pass or contribute to fund the culinary adventure. $8/person; $20/family. 6:30 p.m. at the JCC. For more information or to RSVP, contact jcs@jccfed.org.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 5

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Concert Outing: JFS. Complimentary tickets for low-income seniors to attend University Musical Society concert featuring Choir of King's College, Cambridge. Tickets provided under UMS Fanni and Clifford Epstein Fund. 8 p.m. at U-M Hill Auditorium. For information, contact Nina Dmitriev at nina@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

Chocalate Tasting and Film: TBE. Following Havdalah, enjoy an Israeli Chocolate Tasting and showing of the film *Walk on Water.* $5/person. 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 6

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Family History Scrapbooking: JCC Seniors. Two-week series. Join scrapbooking specialist Michelle Smith to learn how to explore and document your family's history through unique and artful scrapbook pages. Participants will complete at least ten scrapbook pages. $40/includes paper, stickers, and the use of tools during class. Supply own blank 12 X 12 album and family photos. 10 a.m.–noon at the JCC. For information and to register, contact Abbie at 769-0209. *Also April 13.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Benefit Concert: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Charlie King, one of the peace movement's most poignant musicians, will perform. 2 p.m. at The Ark, 316 South Main Street. $15/admission; $50/benefactor. Benefactors will join Charlie for post-concert reception. Ads available in the program. For information about the benefit concert or program ad prices, contact chuck@icpj.net or call 663-1870.

Tot Pesach: TBE. Music, crafts and story by Rabbi Levy. 4 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 7

Youth Vacation Days: JCC-Youth. Spend the break having fun with friends at the JCC. Participants should bring a dairy, nut-free lunch each day. $32/day; $30/additional siblings. $8/day for extended care. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. with extended care from 4–6 p.m. available for a fee. Sign up for one or more days. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org. *April 7-11.*

Invisible Children: EMU Hillel. Noon–5 p.m. at Big Bob's Lakehouse. For information, contact Biz at biz.g.ness@gmail.com.

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Tuesday 8

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. (new time), $4/session or $10/3 sessions; The Bible in its Time: Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East with Lisbeth Fried, 10 a.m.–noon; The State of World Jewry, 11 a.m.; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Invisible Children: EMU Hillel. Noon–5 p.m. at Big Bob's Lakehouse. For information, contact Biz at biz.g.ness@gmail.com.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at UM Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussion in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at U-M Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 9

"Faith: Oppressing Women or Revering Women?" EMU Hillel. *Under One Roof* presents a discussion at 6 p.m. in the Kiva Student Center. Initiative sponsored by grant from Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Detroit. RSVP to Gal at shortstuff853@sbcglobal.net.

Nutritious Food Series: JCC Early Childhood Center. Series of seminars to help get new insights on how to offer kids delicious, nutritious meals. Tips on finding time for breakfast, packing lunch, offering snacks and reducing soda consumption. Learn to enjoy nutritious foods. Today's topic is "Drink! Drink! Drink! But Not Soda." $20/session. 7–8 p.m. For information, contact Noreen DeYoung at ndeyoung@umich.edu.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *Beyond Belief* offers reflections on the Jewish faith, reason and experience. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 10

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

Tot Play Group: TBE. 9:30 a.m. To join, contact Ginger Derrow at ginger.derrow@gmail.com. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

YOH! Yiddish Open House: JCC Seniors. Learn about Yiddish in English. Zvi Gitelman will read a Yiddish story by I.L. Peretz and will lead a discussion. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 11

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 12

Minyan Matok (M&M): BIC. New special service for children in kindergarten through grade six. With songs, stories and active learning. 11 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots aged 3–5 years old and parents followed by a Tot Kiddush. 11:15 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 13

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Family History Scrapbooking: JCC Seniors. 10 a.m.–noon. *See April 6.*

Hike: Jewish Hikers of Michigan. Sponsored by TBE's Caring Community and open to all. For information, call Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645 or email jewishhikers@gmail.com.

"From Sumeria to Brooklyn: The Long Strange Trip of the Jewish People:" JCS-Adult Programming. Series for adults taught by Larry

Kuperman, JCS member and Sunday School teacher. Learn about Jewish history, the origins of the Bible, forms of Judaism today including focus on Secular Humanistic values, and the implications for our modern identity. This month's topic is American Judaism including what the Jewish experience has been in America over time and how America has changed us as we've changed America. Discussion to follow. Bagels and coffee provided. 10:15–11:45 a.m. at the JCC. For information, contact jcs@jccfed.org.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Concert Recital: JFS. Outing for older adults to hear recital of Orpheus Singers. No cost for recital. $6/roundtrip transportation on JFS CareVan, if needed. 3 p.m. at Blanche Anderson Moore Hall. For information, contact Nina Dmitriev at nina@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

Passover Family Program: JCC. Featuring popular folksinger, songwriter and lyrical guitarist Julie Silver. Event includes concert, Passover crafts and activities plus PJ Library storytelling and dinner. Begins at 4 p.m. with concert, followed by activities at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. $8/person or $30/family. For information, call 971-0990.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 14

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Young Families Passover Dinner and Program: BIC. Pre-Pesach celebration for families with children in preschool through first grade. Interactive dinner program featuring songs, stories and Passover crafts to prepare for the holiday. 5:30 p.m.

Israel Week: EMU Hillel. Celebration of Israel's 60th Anniversary with a week of fun events. Israeli–style defense Krav Maga demonstration on Monday. Visit tables around campus on Tuesday, April 15 to learn about Israel's contribution to global society. Talk presented on April 16 by Aaron Ahuvia of University of Michigan-Dearborn on "The Psychology of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict" in Ballroom B. Followed by Birthday Bash for Israel with desserts, DJ and more. Israeli Shabbat will be held outside the Lakehouse on Friday, April 18. at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday 15

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m (new time), $4/session or $10/3 sessions; The Bible in its Time: Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East with Lisbeth Fried, 10 a.m.–noon; The State of World Jewry, 11 a.m.; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Israel Week: EMU Hillel. Celebration of Israel's 60th Anniversary with a week of fun events. Visit tables around campus to learn about Israel's contribution to global society.

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Showing of the film *Heir to an Execution.* 1–3 p.m.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussion in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at U-M Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 16

Israel Week: EMU Hillel. Celebration of Israel's 60th Anniversary with a week of fun events. Talk presented by Aaron Ahuvia of University of Michigan-Dearborn on "The Psychology of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict" in Ballroom B. Followed by Birthday Bash for Israel with desserts, DJ and more.

A2SO Afternoon Delights: JCC Seniors: The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's Music Director Arie Lipsky on cello with Aaron Berfosky, Kathryn Votapek and guest violinist Yehonatan Berick. 1:30 p.m. for dessert and socializing; Concert at 2 p.m.

Nutritious Food Series: JCC Early Childhood Center. Series of seminars to help get new insights on how to offer kids delicious, nutritious meals. Tips on finding time for breakfast, packing lunch, offering snacks and reducing soda consumption. Learn to enjoy nutritious foods. Today's topic is "Enjoy Snacking With No Guilt." $20/session. 7–8 p.m. For information, contact Noreen DeYoung at ndeyoung@umich.edu.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *Beyond Belief* offers reflections on the Jewish faith, reason and experience. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 17

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

Passover Boutique: JCC. All-day sale of unique items for Passover including seder plates, mitvah covers, haggadot and more. 9 a.m.–6 p.m. For information, call 971-0990.

Tot Play Group: TBE. 9:30 a.m. To join, contact Ginger Derrow at ginger.derrow@gmail.com.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Intergenerational Passover Seder: JCC Early Childhood Center and JCC Seniors. The JCC Older Adults Program and Early Childhood Center will celebrate Passover together as children welcome a mystery guest from the past to serve as a guide through an interactive telling of the Passover story. Passover-style lunch served to all in attendance. 11 a.m. For information, call 971-0990.

Jewish Start Paper Weaving Workshop: JCC Seniors. Learn how to create a simple weaving project that will end up in a card or bookmark. Led by Mary Robinson. 1 p.m.

Caregiver Conversations: JFS. Monthly drop-in educational and support group for adult children in a variety of caregiving roles for aging parents. Part of new Jewish Family Services Caregiver Concierge program funded by the Jewish Federation. Co-sponsored by the JCC, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, and the Jewish Cultural Society. This month's focus is "Dealing With Depression in Your Aging Parent." Diane Griffith, LMSW, ACSW, Clinical Social Worker at the U-M Health System, will talk about depression in older adults and discuss concerns and coping mechanisms. 6:30–8 p.m. at the JCC. For more information or to RSVP by April 10, contact Abbie at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Dinner and a Movie: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Showing of the film *Grain of Sand (Granito de Arena).* For more than 20 years, global economic forces have been dismantling public education in Mexico, but always in the constant shadow of popular resistance. *Grain of Sand* is the story of the grassroots, non-violent resistance movement of hundreds of thousands of public school-teachers who took Mexico by surprise and who have endured brutal repression in their 25-year struggle. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m, followed by the 7 p.m. movie. Discussion follows movie. Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. For more information, email Chuck at chuck@icpj.net or call 663-1870.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 18

Passover Break Fun Days: JCC-Youth. Spend the break having fun with friends at the JCC. Participants should bring a dairy, nut-free lunch each day. $32/day; $30/additional siblings. $8/day for extended care. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. with extended care from 4–6 p.m. available for a fee. Sign up for one or more days. For information, contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org. *Also April 22–25.*

Israeli Shabbat: EMU Hillel. Part of weeklong celebration of Israel's 60th Anniversary with a week of fun events. Israeli Shabbat held outside Big Bob's Lakehouse at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Audrey by April 17.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 19

Shabbat Yoga: BIC. Gentle "yoga flow" class with Allison Stupka to help increase openness and awareness before joining regular Shabbat service. Inspired by the emerging practice of Jewish Yoga. 9 a.m.

First Seder: Chabad. Join in a traditional Seder, full of inspiring Chasidic and mystical insights into the Hagadah. Enjoy festive, homemade meal, experience the true meaning of Passover and transcend time and space to leave Egypt with our ancestors. 7:45 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 20

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Shacharit for Passover: AAOM. 9:30 a.m. at U-M Hillel.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Second Night Seder: TBE. Reservations required. For information, visit www.templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744. 6 p.m.

Second Seder: Chabad. Join in a traditional Seder, full of inspiring Chasidic and mystical insights into the Hagadah. Enjoy festive, homemade meal, experience the true meaning of Passover and transcend time and space to leave Egypt with our ancestors. 7:45 p.m.

Monday 21

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Shacharit for Passover: AAOM. 9:30 a.m. at U-M Hillel.

Tuesday 22

Passover Break Fun Days: JCC-Youth. *See April 18.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. (new time); $4/session or $10/3 sessions; The Bible in its Time: Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East with Lisbeth Fried, 10 a.m.–noon; The State of World Jewry, 11 a.m.; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at UM Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Passover Dinner Study Break: EMU Hillel. 6 p.m. at EMU Hillel. RSVP to Audrey by April 21.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 23

Passover Break Fun Days: JCC-Youth. *See April 18.*

Senior Seder: JCC Seniors and JFS: A traditional community seder for all older adults and their families, with guests Rabbi Robert Levy and Cantor Annie Rose from Temple Beth Emeth. Join with friends new and old to enjoy a delicious catered Passover meal, special music, and thought-provoking discussion of the ways in which Passover themes are uniquely relevant to the lives of older adults. $20/person. 5–7:30 p.m. at the JCC. RSVP by April 14 to Abbie at abbie@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *Beyond Belief* offers reflections on Jewish faith, reason, and experience. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 24

Passover Break Fun Days: JCC-Youth. *See April 18.*

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Songs from the Haggadah–New Music for Pesach: JCC Seniors. Special collaboration between local stars Sandor and Laszlo Slomovitz, of the group Gemini, and Rabbi Dobrusin performing new melodies for familiar songs from the Haggadah. RSVP to Abbie at 769-0209. 1 p.m.

Grandparent University: JFS and JCC. An education and discussion group for Jewish grandparents. Today's two topics are "Grandparents as Spiritual Guides" and "Grand Finale–A Celebration of a Year of Grandparent University," with guest speakers Rabbi Robert Levy and Rabbi Robert Dobrusin. Grandparents serve not only as caretakers, playmates, friends, and mentors to grandchildren, but also spiritual guides. Come learn about what this role entails and how to best ensure that grandchildren inherit spiritual values that are meaningful. Also, celebrate the last session of this year's series. Bring a photo of your grandchildren for a fun activity, but be sure you are not in the photo. 2:30–4:30 p.m. (note later time) at the JCC. $5/drop-in. RSVP to Abbie at 769-0209.

Health Care for Michigan Volunteer Meeting: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Learn how to help fix health care in Michigan and help get this message into the media. 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall, Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. For information, email chuck@icpj.net or call 663-1870.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 25

Passover Break Fun Days: JCC-Youth. *See April 18.*

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni for 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 26

Shacharit for Passover: AAOM. 9:30 a.m. at U-M Hillel.

Passover Yiskor Service: TBE. Followed by lunch. RSVP to 665-4744.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots aged 3–5 years old and parents followed by a Tot Kiddush. 11:15 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 27

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Shacharit for Passover: AAOM. 9:30 a.m. at U-M Hillel.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Passover Break Dinner: TBE Twenties and Thirties (TNT). 7 p.m. at Pizza House. RSVP to Jessica Goldberg at jegoldbe@umich.edu.

Moshiach's Dinner: Chabad. 7:45 p.m.

Passover Evening Service: AAOM. 8 p.m. at U-M Hillel.

Monday 28

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Tuesday 29

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m. (new time), $4/session or $10/3 sessions; The Bible in its Time: Introduction to the Bible and Literature of the Ancient Near East with Lisbeth Fried, 10 a.m.–noon; The State of World Jewry, 11 a.m.; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at UM Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 30

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *Beyond Belief* offers reflections on the Jewish faith, reason and experience. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

May 2008

Thursday 1

Friday 2

Youth in Crisis Workshop: JFS. Gathering of parents, mental health, medical, legal and educational professionals to explore resources available and resources needed to assist families with pre-teen and teenage children at risk of crisis behavior. For information, contact Lisa Keefauver at lisa@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

Shabbat and Yom Hashoah Service: TBE. Meaningful service created by Generations After, TBE's group of relatives of Holocaust survivors in commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 3

Mitzvah Day: TBE. Service at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. and projects at 1 p.m.

You can also place your order at www.qualitykosher.com

QUALITY KOSHER CATERING

Passover Carry-Out Menu

Seder Plate package (ready to use- includes symbolic food on a Seder plate)	$12.95
Honey Baked Salmon (an appetizer portion, about 3 oz	$ 5.95
Gefilte Fish (fresh Lake Superior Whitefish & Pickerel)	$ 4.95
Chopped Liver (1/2 lb.)	$ 4.95
Chicken Soup (1/2 gal.)	$ 4.95
Matzah Balls (5 to a package)	$ 3.95
1/2 Roasted Chicken	$ 9.95
Stuffed Chicken Breast (vegetable stuffing)	$ 9.95
Grilled Chicken Breast	$ 9.95
Roast Beef Brisket	$14.95
Prime Ribs of Beef	$16.95
Whole Prime Rib (12–15 lbs. raw wt.)	$199.95
Turkey w/ Gravy (serves 8–10)	$69.95
Portabello Mushroom Spinach Souffle	$12.95
Matzah Kugel (serves 12)	$19.95
Roasted Redskin Potatoes	$7.95/lb.
Carrot Tzimmes	$7.95/lb.
Potato Kugel (serves 6)	$7.95
(serves 12)	$7.95
Broccoli	$7.95/lb
Fruit Compote	$7.95/pt.
Charoses (1/2 pint)	$4.95

Desserts

Lemon Almond Chiffon (serves 8–10)	$19.95
Seven Layer Cake (serves 8–10)	$19.95
Chocolate Oblivion (serves 16–22)	$29.95
Mocha Torte (serves 16–22)	$39.95
Chocolate Chip Cookie Cake	$39.95
Cookie Tray	$39.95
Macaroons (2 dozen)	$14.95
Brownies (2 dozen)	$14.95
Thumbprint Cookies (2 Dozen)	$14.95
Chocolate Chip Cookies (2 dozen)	$14.95
Chocolate Plaque	$ 9.95
Shankbone available	no charge

Please place orders by Thurs. April 10

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Calendar

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. 7 p.m. At U-M Hillel. Home hospitality available for Shabbat and meals. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.; Shira: Family Shabbat in Song at 6:30 p.m.; Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. ($4/for Tot Shabbat dinner menu of fish sticks, macaroni and cheese, and salad.) For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarecon.org or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services and classes

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. except 7:30 a.m. on 4/19. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Maariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvor Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. U-M Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. Mincha.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and *yom tov* (Jewish holiday). Call 995-3276 in advance.

"Mystical Insights to the Torah:" Chabad. For women to learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. Saturday, one hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

"Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:" Chabad. Study group examines the code of law for Shabbat and Jewish ethics. Saturday, 1/2 hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 663-4039

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

U-M Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Classifieds

Part-time director, *Beit Sefer*—Quick! Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah seeks multi-talented leader for small, vibrant *beit sefer*. See full description at www.aarecon.org. Letter and resume by April 4, 2008, to jobs@aarecon.org.

Kosher summer sublet, May-Aug. 1 bedroom in large grad student apartment, $375/month or best offer; bherz@umich.edu

Functional computers needed for Jewish Family Services resettlement and employment clients, 769-0209.

Volunteer with JFS! Visitors, tutors, special events, and office support needed, 734-769-0209.

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The deadline for the May *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Monday, April 7. Publication date: April 29.

Shabbat Candlelighting

April 6	6:42 pm
April 11	6:50 pm
April 18	6:58 pm
April 25	7:06 pm

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Slomovits brothers' CD presents new melodies for the Haggadah

WJN *staff writers*

The Slomovits brothers, Sandor and Laszlo, have a new CD, *Seder Songs—New Melodies for the Haggadah*. The recording grew out of a unique collaboration between the brothers and Rabbi Robert Dobrusin of Beth Israel Congregation. In 2004, the three men presented a program at Beth Israel which consisted of Sandor and Laszlo's original settings of passages from the *Pirke Avot*, with commentary by Rabbi Dobrusin. The success of that evening led them to discuss another project together. Rabbi Dobrusin suggested working with passages from the Haggadah.

Last year, just before Pesach, Rabbi Dobrusin and Sandor and Laszlo gave another program at Beth Israel, with the brothers singing their settings of passages from the Haggadah and Rabbi Dobrusin again commenting on the texts. Since then, Sandor and Laszlo have continued to create more new melodies for familiar songs such as "Dayenu," and "Elijahu," and also for many passages from the Haggadah that are not traditionally sung.

The Slomovits brothers comprise the well-known musical duo, Gemini, and have been writing, performing, and recording folk music for children and families for more than three decades.

The photos on the cover of the new CD are especially meaningful for the brothers. One is of their father's Haggadah, the other is of the seder plate that their family used every Pesach. It belonged to the brothers' maternal great-grandmother and was the only family heirloom that survived their mother's deportation from Budapest to the Ravensbruck concentration camp during World War II.

Another special feature of this CD is that, for the first time, the brothers' children are taking an active role in its creation. Sandor's daughter, Emily, plays violin on one song and Laszlo's son, Daniel, took the photos and designed the CD cover and insert.

The CDs will be available for purchase at Beth Israel's office during regular business hours and also through the brothers' website Geminichildrensmusic.com. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the recordings will go to Beth Israel's Music Fund.

The twin brothers, with Rabbi Dobrusin providing commentary, will present their new music in a Pesach concert, sponsored by Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County, on Thursday, April 24 at 1 p.m. at the JCC. Admission is free. ■

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Relieving seder stress

David Erik Nelson, staff writer

Passover can be a little stressful: house guests, spring cleaning, and a long family feast, followed by a week of matzo pizzas, bunless kosher hot dogs, and checking to be sure you grabbed the pesachdik Pepsi. Fortunately, many local businesses are happy to relieve some of the strain of the season.

Most of us are foggy on what's forbidden during Passover. The rule of thumb is: If it expands when soaked in water, then you probably shouldn't eat it. During Passover, nothing can be used which contains even a speck chometz (barley, wheat, rye, oats, or spelt), although a baked mixture of flour and water not permitted to rise for more than eighteen minutes is acceptable (hence the ubiquitous matzo cracker). This proscription alone complicates cooking and eating quite a bit, but there is a further twist: Most American Jews are Ashkenazim (of European extraction), and thus must also avoid *kitniot* (literally "little things"). *Kitniot* includes corn, rice, and all legumes (peanuts, peas, soy, and any other bean). Owing to the large number of prepared foods that rely on corn-products, such as high-fructose corn syrup, or that are processed on machinery shared with peanuts or soy, it can begin to seem like there is nothing left to eat.

The best place to begin Pesach shopping is **Hiller's Market** (3615 Washtenaw Ave., 677-2370), since they buttress their already formidable selection of staples and imports with a full line of kosher *l'pesach* goods. If you're looking to pick up a few essentials downtown, head to the **People's Food Co-op** (216 N. 4th Ave., 994-9174). While there, savvy chefs might want to pick up a box of quinoa. This sesame-seed-sized grain is a relative newcomer to U.S. kitchens, despite having been cultivated in the Andes since well before the Diaspora. Even though quinoa is very similar to rice, it is technically a grass seed, and thus has been deemed pesachdik by the Star-K Kosher Certification Agency.

Those without the time, the inclination, or any God-given culinary talent need not fret over cooking a delicious seder without flour, canola oil, or a single bean. **Simply Scrumptious Catering** (646-4586) offers a variety of kosher for Passover meals. Since they do a swift business this time of year, it's best to make your arrangements at least 10 days in advance. Other caterers that are kosher-for-Passover include **Quality Kosher Catering** (248-352-7758) and **Elite Kosher Catering** (248-592-0200). Both offer complete menus to choose from.

Likewise, although not a strictly kosher operation, **Zingerman's Catering** (663-3400) does offer a Passover-friendly catering menu (university graduations—a major part of their business—often coincide with Passover). The Passover-friendly menu includes brisket in BBQ sauce, grilled free range chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, fruit salad, chocolate-orange Passover tort, matzo, and Izzy's fruit soda. Whether you cook or cater, flowers from the **Chelsea Flower Shop** (203 E. Liberty St., 662-5616) will make a nice accent, and remind guests that Passover is a celebration of spring and rebirth, even if our local weather seems more inclined towards harshness and inequity. Out-of-town guests can be whisked to your door (and back to Detroit Metro) by **Arbor Limousine** (663-5959). Airport pick-up is $83 (including fuel, parking fees, and a 15 percent gratuity), and drop-offs are $73 (no park necessary). Service is best reserved at least a day in advance.

Because of the preponderance of chamotz and kitnoit in restaurant foods, catching a quick lunch during Passover can prove especially challenging. Although they are best known for their sandwiches (on dense, aromatic Bakehouse bread), **Zingerman's Deli** (422 Detroit St., 663-3354) will once again offer a full Passover-friendly menu. Their handmade gefilte fish and amazing charoset will make you forget all about the paesano rolls and reubens. If you're looking for a quick bite somewhat easier on the pocketbook, drop into **Afternoon Delight** (251 E. Liberty St., 664-7513) for their renowned salad bar and a matzo.

To learn more about what it takes to make packaged foods kosher for Passover, see this article from *Kashrus Magazine*: http://www.kashrusmagazine.com/magazine/104/kosherlpesach.html. Those curious about kosher law in all its intricacies can head to Kashrut.com. ■

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Vitals

Mazel tov

Piper Friend on her bat mitzvah, April 5.
Ruthilah Graff on her bat mitzvah, April 12.
Jacob Graff on his bar mitzvah, April 12.
Harold Miller on his bar mitzvah on April 5.
Caleb Nusbaum on his bar mitzvah on April 12.
Inessa and Michael Gankin on the birth of their son, Daniel Mark Gankin, February 11.
Alison and Matthew Reingold on the birth of their son, Jordan Lev Reingold.
Sharon Kileny and David Singer on the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Faye, also granddaughter of Leah and Paul Kileny and sister to Adam Kileny.
Jonathan Shill and Leah Willis on their wedding on February 28. Jonathan Shill is the son of Karen Shill and Merton Shill.

Condolences

Michael Appel on the death of his mother, Selma Appel.
Carole Rycus on the death of her mother, Helen Lepofsky.
Sari Shifrin on the death of her father, Emanuel Wolgel.
Ronnie Shapiro, on the death of her cousin's son, Jason Miller, February 4.
Leo and Michael Gankin, on the death of their father, Boris Gankin, February 13.
Marian Cohen, on the death of her father, Harry Cohen, February 14.
Teresa McMahon, on the death of her brother, Vincent McMahon, February 21.
Lindsay Stern, on the death of her grandmother, Florence Stern, February 25.
Sheri Gerlinger on the death of her father, Paul Pensler, March 1.

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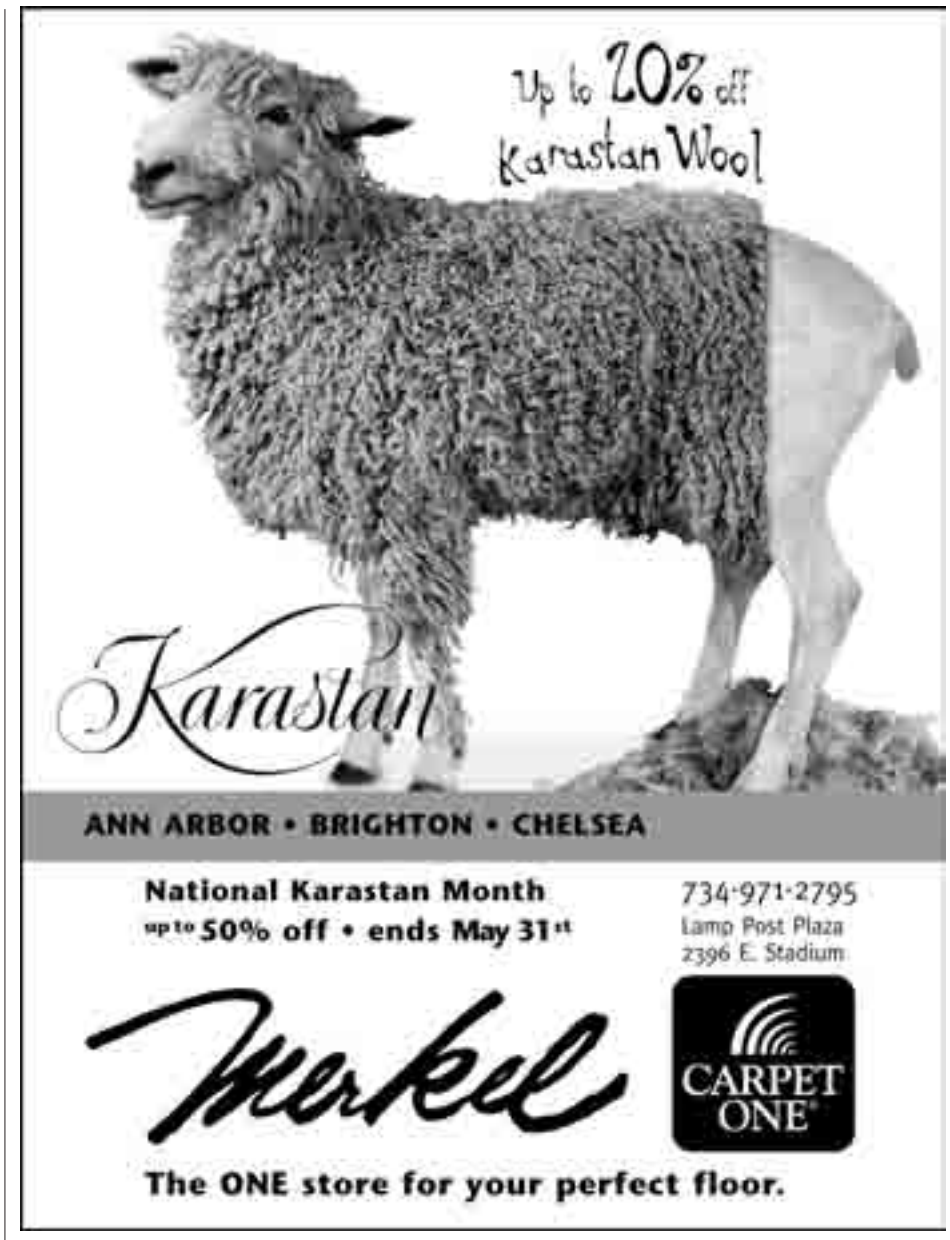

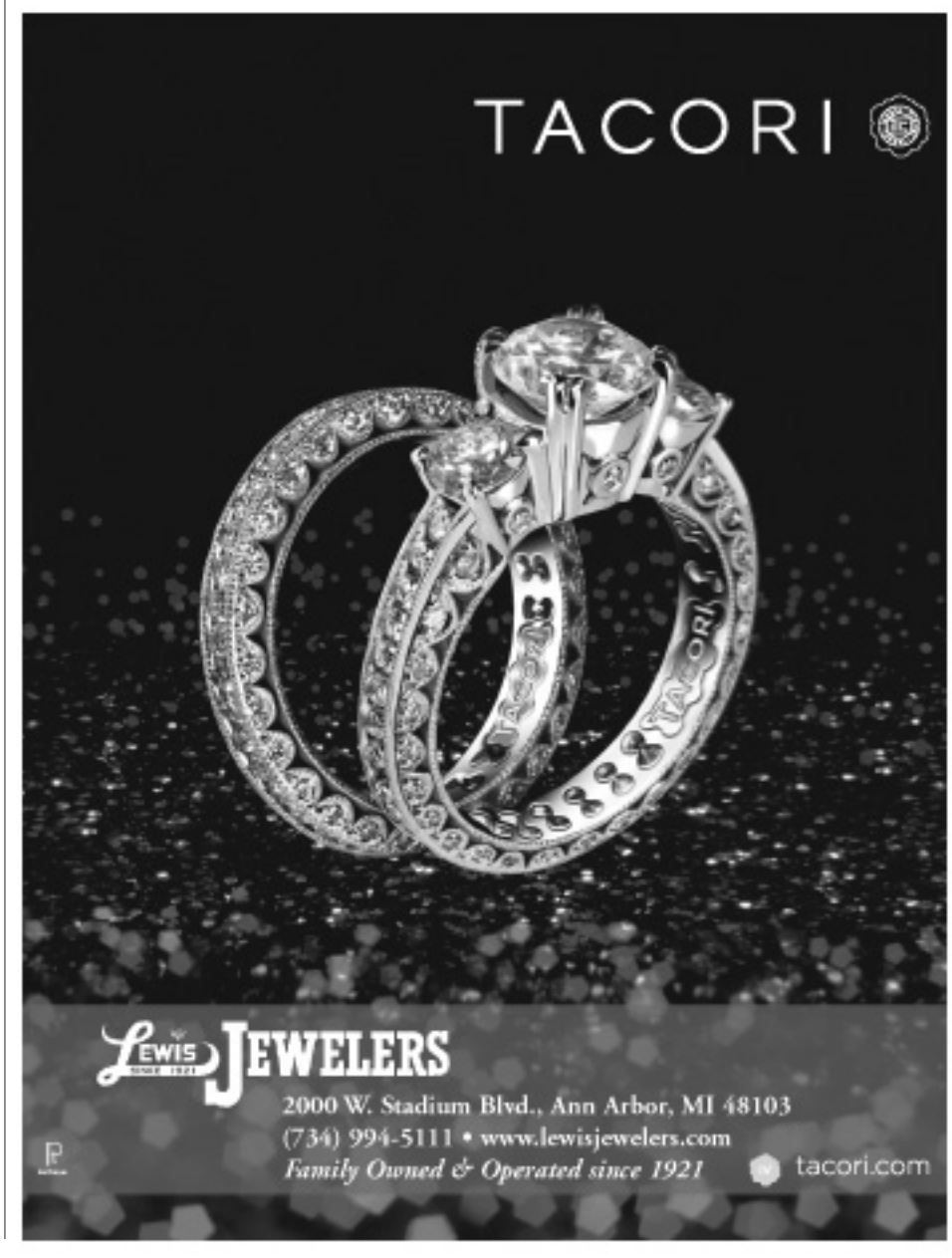

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Celebrate Israel 60

Our community celebrates Israel's 60th birthday

Sunday
May 4
Celebrate Israel Festival
9am- 5pm,
Jewish Community Center

Monday
May 5
Sheketak:
Rhythm in Motion
"From Hora to Hip-Hop"
www.sheketak.com
7:30 pm, Power Center
tickets: www.umich.edu/~muto/

Sunday
May 18
Songs of Israel at her 60th
Temple Beth Emeth's Kol Ha'Lev
and the Ann Arbor Symphony
7 pm, Michigan Theater

Tuesday, May 6
Israeli Art, Craft & Jewelry Show
7:00 pm, Home of Cindy & Scott Kellman

Wednesday, May 7
Yom Hazikaron
(Israel Memorial Day) Observance
Beth Israel Congregation

May 11-May 15
7th Annual JCC Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival
Michigan Theater

Sunday, June 1
"The Dead Sea Copper Scrolls" Lecture
Oren Gutfeld, Ph.D.; 7:45 pm, Beth Israel Congregation

June-August 2008
Israeli Film Series
Beth Israel Congregation

Tuesday, July 15
Tzofim (Israeli Scouts) Caravan
Jewish Community Center

November 16-23
Community Mission to Israel
Jewish Federation

For more information: www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael
or contact Gilla Henya-Wiesel: (734) 677-0100; celebrateisrael@jewishannarbor.org

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